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United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

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Introduction

1. During the past year there have been extraordinary challenges to security and stability. The terrorist attacks in the United States of America on 11 September 2001 dramatized the global threat of terrorism and highlighted the need for a broad strategy to combat it. Already, the United Nations has played an important role in mobilizing international action in the global struggle against terrorism. We know, to our cost, that terrorism is not a new phenomenon; it has deep political, economic, social and psychological roots. I firmly believe that the terrorist menace must be suppressed, but States must ensure that counter-terrorist measures do not violate human rights.

2. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September the international community has focused its attention on the challenge of reconstructing weak or collapsed States, like Afghanistan, which provide fertile breeding grounds for terrorism. Simultaneously, there has been a sharp escalation of violence and tension in the Middle East, in South Asia, and in central Africa over the past year.

3. There were also positive developments on the international scene. East Timor gained independence and Sierra Leone held peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections. The conferences at Doha on trade, Monterrey on financing for development, and Johannesburg on sustainable development outlined steps that can help to meet the millennium development goals. The entry into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court was an unprecedented step forward for world order and justice. There was also increasingly widespread recognition that respect for international treaties and international law is essential for human security, stability and progress.

4. One of the basic truths of our time is that no single country has the capacity to cope with the political, economic, environmental and technological challenges of an interconnected world. Problems such as terrorism, mass refugee movements, HIV/AIDS, overpopulation, environmental degradation and pollution transcend national borders, and require international solutions — and the number of global problems requiring global solutions is continually growing. All nations stand to benefit from the constructive change that multilateralism makes possible, as well as the opportunities and solutions that it provides. Moreover, multilateral action is possible in many cases where unilateral involvement would be impossible or undesirable.

5. Fulfilling its role as a universal organization, the United Nations has helped to develop the principles and practice of multilateralism. The Organization is a unique instrument available to the world for dealing with critical global problems that require the collective resources and cooperation of all countries. It provides the common structures and institutions by which we can further our profound universal human interests.

6. The main concerns of the United Nations are of relevance to all nations, and affect the lives of ordinary people all over the world in many ways. As is evident in this report, the agenda of the United Nations is vast: achieving peace and security, combating poverty, meeting humanitarian commitments, promoting development, extending international law and human rights, and establishing partnerships with wide sections of civil society. These issues reflect the changing nature and growing complexity of international affairs; and the breadth of cooperation noted in this report bears witness to a fundamental commitment to improving the human condition. The results of our efforts are sometimes immediate and direct; sometimes they take a long time to be realized.

7. The award of the centennial Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations was a fitting recognition of its role as an instrument for making and maintaining peace, and promoting human rights. As the Nobel Committee put it, "the only negotiable route to global peace and cooperation goes by way of the United Nations".

8. The United Nations is an imperfect institution with limitations; but every Member State has a stake in ensuring that the Organization continues to strive to achieve its purposes. The choice before us is clear. We can continue to increase our efforts to achieve international order and justice through negotiation and consensus, or we can return to an earlier age when conflicts of interest between States were resolved by other means.

9. Fifty-seven years after the United Nations was founded, it continues to grow in numbers, and membership remains a potent symbol of a country's place in the community of nations. I am delighted to welcome East Timor and Switzerland as new Members, which will bring the number of Members of the United Nations to 191. I hope that all Member States, large and small, old and new, will continue to give their support to the United Nations and the principles for which it stands.

Chapter I
Achieving peace and security

10. The setbacks to international peace and security in the past year were numerous, from the rise in tensions between India and Pakistan to the deterioration in the Middle East, and from the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States to the eruption of violence in Liberia. It is no exaggeration to say that, to many people, the world felt like a much more dangerous place this year than it has for many years. There are however millions of people around the world for whom it has long been dangerous: people who live in conditions of extreme insecurity and poverty, and for whom progress towards peace and prosperity did not advance this past year as much as it should have. The people of the occupied Palestinian territory, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere would be justified in asking what more the international community and their own Governments can and should be doing to help them advance towards peace.

11. Significant progress, however, has been made in some areas. The people of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, have made a remarkable transition from more than two decades of war to the beginnings of a post-Taliban stability. In Angola, an entire population has, at last, the possibility of a peaceful future. It is the obligation of the international community to help them to achieve it. Prospects for peace seem better also in the Sudan and, in May 2002, the whole world celebrated with the East Timorese as their country gained its independence.

Conflict prevention and peacemaking

12. During the past year, the focus of implementation of the recommendations contained in my report of June 2001 on the prevention of armed conflict has been on securing greater cooperation with Governments, supporting subregional initiatives to promote peace and stability and encouraging the mainstreaming of conflict prevention into national development programmes. The development, humanitarian, human rights and political arms of the United Nations system will continue to work in concert for sustainable peace.

13. In the Middle East, an already tense situation was aggravated by a vicious circle of violence. Previously understood "red lines" were violated, with heavy loss of life on both sides. In March 2002, following a suicide bomb attack in the Israeli city of Netanya, the Israeli Defence Forces launched a massive operation in the West Bank, severely damaging the Palestinian security and civilian infrastructure, and provoking a humanitarian and human rights crisis. To address the situation, in April 2002 I proposed the establishment of a multinational force to help provide security for Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and to promote an environment conducive to the resumption of negotiations. While there is no consensus yet on such a force, its potential for generating momentum towards a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been widely recognized by the international community.

14. The Israeli incursion into the Jenin refugee camp led to allegations of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. In response, I offered to send an impartial fact-finding team to compile an accurate account of what had occurred. The Security Council in resolution 1405 (2002) unanimously accepted my offer. Accordingly, I assembled an appropriate team. In view of the fact that Israel's subsequent concerns on this issue were fundamental in nature, I found it necessary to disband the team without its being able to visit the sites. In May 2002, the General Assembly requested me to submit a report on the events in Jenin and other Palestinian cities. That report was issued on 1 August 2002 (A/ES-10/186).

15. Amid these distressing circumstances, there were opportunities for progress towards a political settlement. In particular, the Security Council, in resolution 1397 (2002), affirmed a vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, would live side by side within secure and recognized borders. The assistance of a third party is critical to help the parties emerge from the present cycle of destruction. To this end, I continue to maintain close and regular contacts with all concerned. I engaged in particular with the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union, a group which has evolved into a new coordinating mechanism known as the Quartet.

16. At a meeting in Madrid in April 2002, the Quartet called for a three-pronged approach to comprehensively address security, economic and political concerns. In May 2002, in Washington, D.C., the Quartet announced its intention to work with the parties to hold an international peace conference focused on attaining the goal set out in resolution 1397 (2002). In July 2002, in New York, the Quartet reached an agreement on the goals identified in the statement of the President of the United States of 24 June 2002, namely, two democratic States living side by side in peace and security; a complete and lasting halt to violence and terrorism; an end to the occupation that began in 1967; a halt to settlements; reform of the Palestinian Authority's security and civilian institutions; the holding of elections; and the conclusion of permanent settlement negotiations on the outstanding issues within a defined time frame, namely, three years. Representatives of the Governments of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia had their first meeting with the Quartet at that time.

17. Since the departure of the United Nations Special Commission from Iraq in 1998, United Nations arms inspectors have not been allowed into the country to verify its adherence to Security Council resolutions on its programme on weapons of mass destruction. The pace of my dialogue with the Government of Iraq has, however, accelerated. Since March 2002, I have held several rounds of meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission remains ready to resume on-the-ground inspections. In an effort to minimize hardships for the civilian population of Iraq, the Security Council in May 2002 unanimously adopted resolution 1409 (2002), designed to increase the flow of humanitarian goods into Iraq. A more comprehensive easing of sanctions, however, continues to depend on Iraq's full compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

18. The Government of Iraq continues to reject Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), on the question of Kuwaiti and third-country missing persons and seized property. Recently, Iraq undertook to return documents belonging to the Kuwaiti national archives, and my High-level Coordinator was able to participate in my meetings with the Iraqi Foreign Minister in July 2002. I have proposed the re-establishment of a United Nations mechanism for the return of the national archives and other Kuwaiti property, and the Governments of Kuwait and Iraq have accepted that proposal. Iraq has repeatedly refused to meet with my High-level Coordinator to discuss the question of missing persons. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq recently visited the country for the first time in nine years.

19. While developments in Africa over the past year, such as progress in negotiations to settle the long-standing conflict in southern Sudan, and Africa's commitment to promoting democratic governance and preventing armed conflict, gave some reason for optimism, the devastation caused by conflict on that continent has demonstrated the costs of not acting quickly to prevent conflict. The United Nations has continued to work closely with Governments, opposition parties and civil society to provide assistance in maintaining socio-political stability. Strategies have included measures to alleviate poverty, consolidate democracy, promote the rule of law, enhance respect for human rights and facilitate the return and resettlement of refugees and displaced people.

20. I dispatched senior envoys to the Central African Republic in the wake of a failed coup in May 2001, to the Gambia in October 2001 and January 2002, and to Cameroon in June 2002, at the time of critical elections in those countries. Those missions helped to restore dialogue among government and opposition leaders, allowing democratic processes, including elections, to proceed. During my visit to Nigeria in July 2002, I explored with the President, Olusegun Obasanjo, practical ways for the United Nations to assist the Government, and society as a whole, to create a stable environment before the 2003 presidential elections. Upon a request from the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs sent a needs-assessment mission to Nigeria in May 2002, and is currently preparing a programme of electoral assistance for the 2003 elections. The United Nations supported the Government of Nigeria in organizing the Niger Delta Conference, in December 2001, which developed options for promoting stability and development in that region. In the Niger, the United Nations in partnership with the Government, organized a National Forum on Conflict Prevention in July 2001, which brought together government officials, representatives of civil society and traditional

and religious leaders to promote a strategy for improving national capacities for conflict prevention.

21. The situation in Angola changed dramatically after the death, in February 2002, of Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Negotiations between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA led to a ceasefire agreement at the end of March 2002, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding covering demilitarization in April 2002. Although the United Nations entered reservations on the provision on general amnesty, the Organization signed the Memorandum as a witness, and has begun to assist in its implementation. My Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa has held intensive consultations with Angolan parties, at their request, on implementing the Memorandum of Understanding. On the basis of the findings of an inter-agency Technical Assessment Mission sent to Angola in June 2002, I have proposed a revised structure of the United Nations presence in Angola to better assist the parties. In this new and promising political context, I note that both parties have publicly affirmed their commitment to lasting peace and reconciliation.

22. In Burundi, substantial progress was made in the implementation of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation. The Transitional Government was established in November 2001 and the Implementation Monitoring Committee, chaired by my Special Representative, returned to Bujumbura. As a result of the deployment of the South African special protection unit, exiled political leaders were able to return to Burundi to participate in the Transitional Government, the National Assembly and the Senate. Ceasefire negotiations have however failed to produce tangible results so far, and fighting between the army and armed groups continues to impede the implementation of the Arusha Agreement. To build confidence in the peace process, it is important that a durable ceasefire be reached and that all stakeholders make every effort to implement the provisions of the Agreement.

23. Very limited progress was achieved in Western Sahara over the past year. My Personal Envoy has continued to pursue intensive consultations with all relevant parties on possible options and I welcome the support and encouragement that the Security Council has extended to him. I remain hopeful that an early political resolution, providing for self-determination, will bring an end to this long-standing dispute. With respect to Somalia, progress towards peace has been slow despite the efforts of the "frontline States" of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to assist the Somali parties in holding a National Reconciliation Conference. I hope that the newly created Contact Group on Somalia will help to narrow the differences among the IGAD frontline States, thus increasing the effectiveness of the mediation process. In the Sudan, renewed mediation efforts by IGAD with enhanced assistance from the IGAD Partners Forum led to significant agreements on some outstanding issues in July 2002. My Adviser will be attending the next round of the IGAD-led talks, from mid-August 2002, where, I hope, a definitive agreement will be reached to end the war in the Sudan.

24. In South Asia, an abrupt escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan during the first half of 2002 created great international anxiety. The situation remains volatile, and an outbreak of hostilities between these two countries with nuclear weapon capabilities has the potential to escalate with terrible consequences. At the same time, there can be no tolerance for either incursions across the Line of Control or terrorist acts of any kind in the region. I have consistently appealed to the parties to resume their bilateral dialogue and to resolve their differences, over Kashmir in particular, by peaceful means. I encourage both sides to reduce their military contingents stationed in Kashmir, and to consider other measures and initiatives aimed at further reducing tensions. My own good offices remain available to both sides to promote a peaceful solution.

25. I am encouraged by the progress made in the peace process in Sri Lanka, facilitated by Norway. At the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, the United Nations system is providing developmental and humanitarian assistance to support and promote this process. In Nepal, however, I am increasingly concerned by the escalation of violence between the Government and the armed insurgency. If requested, I would positively consider the use of my good offices to help achieve a peaceful solution. In the meantime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) dispatched an innovative "conflict assessment mission" to Nepal in May 2002 to explore ways of targeting the delivery of assistance so as not to further aggravate economic and social inequities.

26. In East Asia, I remain ready to assist and support all efforts aimed at fostering inter-Korean reconciliation through dialogue and cooperation. I urge

Member States, for their part, to actively seek creative strategies to encourage rapprochement on the peninsula, and to strengthen peace and stability in the region.

27. In Myanmar, I have used my good offices to facilitate national reconciliation and democratization. An important development occurred on 6 May 2002, when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was allowed to resume her normal political activities as the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy. This marked a new beginning for the national reconciliation process that began in October 2000. I will continue to do my utmost, together with my Special Envoy and with support from interested Member States, to facilitate that process in accordance with General Assembly resolutions that call for national reconciliation and democratization in Myanmar.

28. In May 2002 I visited Indonesia. I noted the concerted efforts being made by United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to support the Government's pursuit of political, economic and social reforms. I still firmly believe that Indonesia's national unity and territorial integrity can best be ensured by adherence to democratic norms and the promotion of human rights. I intend to enhance United Nations efforts to assist the Government as it seeks to promote good governance and to establish a stable, democratic and prosperous society.

29. In the Pacific region, the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (signed in August 2001) between the Bougainville parties and the Government of Papua New Guinea is progressing. I am heartened by advances made in weapons disposal, in which the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville has taken a lead role at the request of the parties. A joint mission composed of members of the Departments of Political Affairs, Disarmament Affairs and Economic and Social Affairs was dispatched to Bougainville in May 2002 to identify measures for enhancing disarmament efforts. The United Nations remains ready to work with the international community, especially other States in the region, the Government of Papua New Guinea, and the Bougainville parties to fulfil all elements of the Peace Agreement.

30. In Latin America, my Special Adviser on Colombia continued to assist peace efforts in that country through regular contacts with the Government, guerrilla groups, civil society and the international community. Early in January 2002 my Acting Special Adviser, the group of 10 facilitating countries, and the Catholic Church helped to avert a breakdown in the peace talks between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Unfortunately, similar efforts in February 2002 were unable to prevent the talks from collapsing. Talks with the smaller guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, continued intermittently throughout this period, but these ended in May 2002. I am concerned that the breakdown of these negotiations will have grave effects both nationally and regionally. The civilian population of Colombia continues to bear the brunt of the conflict, owing to frequent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties. I have urged the parties to sign a humanitarian agreement that would protect the civilian population and ensure full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. In June 2002, I met the President-elect, Alvaro Uribe Vélez. In a useful exchange on the situation in Colombia, we discussed how the United Nations can most effectively assist the Colombian people. The United Nations stands ready to provide further assistance in promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

31. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala has continued to oversee compliance with the peace agreements reached in 1996. Owing to the complexity of the agreements, the implementation timeline was extended until 2004 but, despite the stated commitment of the Government, the new deadlines are not being met. Increasing political polarization because of the approaching elections has also impeded implementation of the agreements. Regrettably, this past year has seen a rise in human rights violations, increased poverty and hunger, and indications of the remilitarization of society. The renewed commitment to the agreements exhibited at the Consultative Group meeting held in Washington in February 2002 has, however, given some cause for optimism. The commitment of the people and the Government of Guatemala must be redoubled to realize the promise embodied in the 1996 agreements.

32. My hopes for a political dialogue between the Government of Haiti and its opposition were not fulfilled in the past year. Despite efforts by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community to promote dialogue, neither

party has made the compromises necessary for meaningful negotiations. This failure has prevented the release of urgently needed development assistance. I welcome the establishment of the OAS Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti, in particular its focus on the promotion of security, justice, human rights and governance. The comprehensive transition programme coordinated by UNDP, following the closure of the United Nations International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti in 2001, remains a valuable complement to these efforts.

33. In Cyprus, direct talks between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots began following an agreement reached in December 2001. The talks have been taking place in the United Nations Protected Area, and in the presence of my Special Adviser. I travelled to Cyprus in May 2002 to encourage the two leaders to quicken the pace of the talks, resolve the key issues and achieve a comprehensive settlement this year. I will meet both leaders again on 6 September with a view to taking stock of the current talks and charting a course for the way ahead. In the meantime, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus continued to monitor the buffer zone across Cyprus.

Peacekeeping and peace-building

34. On 20 May 2002, the United Nations successfully concluded the transitional administration of East Timor. It was a privilege to witness the birth of an independent East Timor, and to hand over authority from the United Nations to East Timor's first democratically elected President. In Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, specific powers were transferred from the United Nations mission to a democratically elected assembly in March 2002. In Sierra Leone, successful elections in May 2002 should lay the foundation for a peaceful future. In Afghanistan, many of the plans mapped out in the Bonn Agreement of December 2001 have been implemented, with the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission. Over 1 million refugees and internally displaced people have returned to their homes in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2002. While these examples of progress in peace-building are welcome, much remains to be done in all United Nations peace missions.

35. The establishment of the Democratic Republic of East Timor led to the successful conclusion of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 20 May 2002. The achievement is all the more remarkable in view of the state of destruction at the start of the UNTAET mandate, and the fact that institutions of national government never existed in East Timor. This accomplishment is above all the product of the determination, courage and patience of the East Timorese people, who were assisted by the international community and the United Nations in laying the foundations for political, social and economic development. UNTAET has been replaced by a new, smaller-scale peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). While the mandate of UNMISET does not entail full-scale administrative responsibilities, the Mission does retain responsibility for executive policing, and a substantial military component. It also has a number of civilian advisers in areas that are crucial for the continued stability and viability of the new Government.

36. In Afghanistan, the fall of the Taliban regime created a unique opportunity for peace and national reconciliation. Under United Nations auspices, the Afghan parties met in Bonn in December 2001, and agreed to a political process to secure a peaceful, democratic society where human rights are respected. As provided in the Bonn Agreement, the power-sharing Interim Authority was replaced in June 2002 by an indirectly elected Transitional Authority, following the successful conclusion of a nationwide traditional assembly, or Loya Jirga. It was particularly heartening to hear the voices of previously disenfranchised Afghan women at the Loya Jirga.

37. Mindful of the impact of the fall of the Taliban, and the Bonn Agreement, I recommended that an integrated United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) be created to assist the Afghans in implementing the Agreement, and to begin the immense task of reconstruction. The Security Council endorsed this recommendation, and UNAMA was established at the end of March 2002. My Special Representative for Afghanistan and UNAMA will continue to work closely with the Transitional Authority to secure the path to peace and sustainable development. UNAMA is a positive example of an integrated mission designed to support the political, governance and peace-building processes while simultaneously responding to urgent humanitarian and recovery needs.

38. In Sierra Leone, the United Nations has made good progress in implementing its peacekeeping mandate. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) completed its deployment to all areas of the country in November 2001. A total of 47,000 combatants from all parties were disarmed and demobilized, and the process was completed on 17 January 2002. This paved the way for presidential and parliamentary elections, held in May 2002, according to the consensus reached at the National Consultative Conference in January 2002. The major challenge now is to consolidate the current fragile peace, and manage the transition to national recovery. Urgent efforts must be focused on extending the Government's authority throughout the country, completing the reintegration of ex-combatants, and promoting justice and national reconciliation.

39. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) continued to monitor the ceasefire and the Temporary Security Zone, verify the redeployment of Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, and coordinate mine action activities. In April 2002, the peace process entered a crucial phase when the Boundary Commission rendered its decision on the delimitation of the common border. Both parties publicly accepted the decision. It is important that the parties cooperate closely with the Boundary Commission and UNMEE during the implementation of the decision.

40. The deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has continued and the ceasefire has generally held, although serious incidences of armed conflict still occur, especially in the east of the country. The withdrawal of foreign forces, an essential requirement under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, has largely been accomplished, although the presence of foreign forces in the east of the country remains a significant problem. A major element in the MONUC mandate is the voluntary disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of armed groups, a programme which depends upon a political accord at the Congolese and regional level. The participants in the inter-Congolese dialogue at Sun City, South Africa, in March and April 2002, could not reach an all-inclusive agreement. Consequently, in June 2002, I appointed a Special Envoy for the inter-Congolese dialogue to assist the parties in reaching an all-inclusive agreement to bring peace, national reconciliation and unity to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 30 July 2002, the heads of State of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda signed, at Pretoria, a peace agreement on the withdrawal of the Rwandan troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the dismantling of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces in that country with the assistance of the United Nations. The agreement was facilitated by South Africa, whose President, Thabo Mbeki, is the first Chairman of the African Union. I shall soon submit my recommendation in this regard to the Security Council.

41. The United Nations Peace-building Support Offices in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia have continued to play a catalytic role in assisting those countries to emerge from conflict. Particular emphasis has been applied to promoting national reconciliation, consolidating the establishment of democratic processes, enhancing respect for human rights and the rule of law, and mobilizing international economic assistance. The offices have also been working closely with United Nations country teams to mainstream conflict prevention into national development programmes, within the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and by incorporating early warning and conflict prevention into programme formulation and priority setting.

42. I regret, however, the recent deterioration of the situation in Liberia. This compromises hopes for achieving sustainable peace after nearly a decade of destructive civil war in that country, and also undermines the successes achieved in neighbouring Sierra Leone. The cross-border movement of thousands of Liberian refugees, mixed with the potential for a mass return of refugees from Sierra Leone who are currently in Liberia, could have a serious effect on regional stability.

43. There were heightened tensions along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon over the past year. In particular, there was a pronounced escalation in violent incidents across the line, both within and outside the Shab'a farms area, in March and April 2002. Although the situation stabilized in May 2002, the potential for deterioration remains significant. The Government of Lebanon has yet to take all the necessary steps to restore its authority throughout the south, where the activities of armed elements along the Blue Line keep the situation unstable. Israeli violations of Lebanese

airspace have contributed to the tension. The Security Council has repeatedly called upon all parties concerned to respect fully the Blue Line, most recently in its resolution 1391 (2002). The functions of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continue to be largely those of an observer mission. Accordingly, the Force has continued with its reconfiguration exercise, which has entailed implementation of a plan to reduce its numbers.

44. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) is in the final stages of implementing its core mandate of police reform and restructuring. It is preparing to hand over to a mission organized by the European Union at the end of 2002. Improvements in police performance have significantly contributed to 110,000 minority returns throughout the country, an unprecedented number, in 2001 and the first quarter of 2002. UNMIBH has provisionally authorized 17,000 police personnel and the final phase of certification has begun. Independent, professional commissioners now command most police administrations, despite some political resistance. The UNMIBH Special Trafficking Operations Programme has been instrumental in countering trafficking in women. The State Border Service has expanded rapidly, and now covers 88 per cent of the border. It plays a vital role in the fight against illegal migration, organized crime and terrorism.

45. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has focused on establishing the provisional institutions of self-government, following elections to the newly formed Kosovo Assembly in November 2001. In line with the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government, the provisional institutions of self-government have assumed public administration responsibilities, for instance for health care and education, while my Special Representative retains certain reserved powers, including powers over the police, justice and foreign relations. UNMIK has enhanced its dialogue with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since November 2001 with positive results, including the transfer to Kosovo, in March 2002, of the remaining Kosovo Albanian detainees from Serbian jails.

46. UNMIK has also focused on laying the foundations for economic progress, tackling crime and violence, and creating a fair and safe society. One element of this process has been the establishment of the Kosovo Police Service; currently 5,500 local police officers have been trained and are operational. Specific emphasis has also been placed on privatization, the return of Kosovo's ethnic minority populations, the situation in Mitrovica, and targeting organized crime and corruption. In order to facilitate a process that will determine the final status of Kosovo, without prejudging the outcome, my Special Representative has set down benchmarks that must be reached before such a process can begin.

47. The situation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, the area of responsibility of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), deteriorated in the second half of 2001, when several hundred irregulars infiltrated through the Kodori Valley from the Georgian side of the ceasefire line and clashed with Abkhaz forces. On 8 October 2001, a UNOMIG helicopter was shot down close to the entrance of the valley; all nine persons on board were killed. By November 2001, the fighting ended and, in the first quarter of 2002, the tensions in the Kodori Valley subsided, not least because of the mediation efforts of my Special Representative and the resumed patrolling of UNOMIG. My Special Representative continues his efforts to forge a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In December 2001, he obtained the full support of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Georgia for a package proposal to be presented to the parties as a basis for negotiations on the future status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia. Efforts continue to ensure that both sides will accept the package.

48. In Tajikistan, post-conflict peace-building processes are under way and developing successfully. The work of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and the United Nations country team has helped to stabilize the political and security situation in the country, in particular by promoting good governance and strengthening civil society. Extremist groups, however, continue to pose a threat to the region.

49. Over the past year, the United Nations has continued to improve the management of peace operations, focusing on implementing the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. With strong support from the Member States, progress has been made on improving rapid deployment capacities, training, and integrated planning of peace operations. An important step has

been taken towards meeting the challenge of rapid deployment within a 30- to 90-day time frame. I welcome the General Assembly's endorsement of the concept of strategic deployment stocks, which will enable the Secretariat to pre-position equipment to support one complex mission at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Together with clearer pre-mandate commitment authority, the strategic deployment stocks will considerably improve the Secretariat's ability to provide timely logistics support and financing for rapidly deployed missions.

50. New posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have increased capacity, and restructuring to take advantage of these new resources has helped to enhance management and planning. For the first time, a handbook for multidimensional peacekeeping is being prepared, as are more detailed standard operating procedures for military, mission support and public information. Improved techniques in mission planning and start-up have been piloted during the establishment of UNAMA, and the Department has expanded its civilian training cell, which provides administrative and logistics training for staff in field missions.

51. At Headquarters and in the field, lessons learned are being integrated into policy formulation, strategic planning and implementation. In particular, commitments to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), are being fulfilled. I have appointed Gender Advisers in five missions: MONUC, UNMIK, UNMIBH, UNAMSIL and UNMISET. A system-wide implementation plan prepared by the Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, outlines other efforts being made by the United Nations system to implement that resolution. Further, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1379 (2001), taking action to protect children has become an explicit objective of United Nations peace operations. I have appointed Child Protection Advisers in MONUC and UNAMSIL. United Nations peacekeeping missions also now regularly include human rights components.

52. The United Nations has continued efforts to build national and regional peacekeeping capabilities, for example by reorienting military and police training towards improving the capacity of national and regional training centres. The Organization currently works with training institutes in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe to standardize peacekeeping training. Standardized training helps to ensure that peacekeeping troops are better prepared to integrate into a peacekeeping force, improving both United Nations and regional peacekeeping efforts.

53. Although the effort to reform and improve the management of peace operations is progressing well in the Secretariat and in the field, United Nations peacekeeping continues to be challenged by a shortage of troops. A number of countries that have historically taken the lead in contributing troops to peacekeeping operations are no longer significant contributors. Notwithstanding the critical importance of financial and political support provided by the Member States, troop contributions from a larger pool of countries are necessary to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping remains as effective an instrument as it should be.

54. The Security Council has continued, in its resolutions, to recognize the importance of mine action, and mine action is an integral and crucial component of peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Lebanon and Sierra Leone. Given the strong humanitarian focus of mine action, its inclusion has led to a more productive interaction between peacekeepers and the humanitarian community. In Lebanon, following the successful conclusion of an agreement between the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, effective mine clearance started in May 2002, in the UNIFIL area. Over 7,000 anti-personnel landmines, in more than 30 minefields (for a total of 600,000 m^2), have already been cleared. At the same time, UNIFIL troops are marking minefields along the Blue Line, clearly identifying areas as safe or dangerous for local communities.

The United Nations and regional organizations

55. The United Nations continues to attach great importance to strengthening cooperation with regional organizations and arrangements. High-level meetings over the past several years have built a practical framework for cooperation in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building in particular. The United Nations liaison office with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continues to generate a wide range of collaborative programme activities between the two organizations. It is expected that this collaborative

relationship between the United Nations and OAU will be further reviewed and redefined now that OAU has become the African Union.

56. During the past year, much progress was made in strengthening cooperation with the European Union. Particular emphasis was placed on cooperation in conflict prevention and crisis management. The United Nations and the European Union agreed to better coordinate their training programmes in conflict prevention, and their efforts to develop early warning mechanisms. In the framework of the annual policy dialogue between the two organizations, the Deputy Secretary-General travelled to Brussels in April 2002 to continue the process of high-level consultations between the European Union and the United Nations on ways of enhancing cooperation between the two organizations. The annual high-level consultations between the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe have been further strengthened by the participation of the European Union and the European Commission, a process now referred to as "tripartite plus". The aim is to rationalize the division of labour between these entities, specifically in peace-building and particularly in cases where they are co-deployed.

57. The current and potential security threats to the countries of Central Asia have prompted their Governments to strengthen institutions of regional cooperation. At Almaty, early in June 2002, after 10 years of patient discussions, 16 Asian countries held their first summit meeting, at which a new regional organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building in Asia, was created. A few days later, the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which comprises China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, signed a charter transforming the group into a fully-fledged international organization with a permanent secretariat in Beijing. It will, among other things, undertake joint efforts for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region and encourage effective cooperation among member States.

58. The establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa is an important example of the commitment of the United Nations to working more closely with States, regional organizations and regional civil society to address the complex challenges of the subregion. I am grateful to the Government of Senegal for offering to host the Office, and for pledging its full support to it.

Electoral assistance

59. From September 2001 to June 2002, the United Nations received 17 requests for electoral assistance, and was able to respond in 14 cases. Electoral processes are evolving rapidly in many countries. As national expertise and capacities improve, the United Nations is increasingly being called on to provide more specialized technical assistance. The United Nations has also taken steps with partner organizations to refine and enhance the standards for international electoral assistance activities.

60. To keep pace with these transformations, innovative projects are being developed and piloted. Expert technical monitoring of elections is a non-intrusive means of providing international support and advice. Such a monitoring operation was conducted in Solomon Islands in 2001. Longer-term projects relating to civic education and capacity-building for election management bodies are being implemented, for example in Nigeria, and are contributing to building democracy between election cycles. In other cases, election monitoring bodies have requested comprehensive reviews of their electoral operations to streamline processes and ensure maximum cost-effectiveness in future elections.

61. Over the past year, two electoral processes in particular should be noted for their success: the parliamentary and presidential elections in East Timor, and presidential elections in Sierra Leone. In both cases, elections played an important role in broader international efforts to mitigate conflict and promote democratization.

Terrorism

62. In the past year, the Organization intensified its work in the fight against terrorism. Shortly after 11 September 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) and the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/1 by consensus, and held a week-long debate in October. By resolution 1373 (2001) the Security Council imposed binding obligations on Member States to suppress and prevent terrorism, and established a Counter-Terrorism

Committee to monitor the implementation of the resolution. In June 2002 an international symposium on combating international terrorism: the role of the United Nations was held by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which also initiated a programme to promote the ratification and implementation of the 12 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

Disarmament

63. There was little international cooperation in multilateral forums on disarmament this past year. Negotiations on nuclear disarmament and a treaty on fissile materials, as well as efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, remained deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. The review of the Biological Weapons Convention was suspended until November 2002, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force.

64. I welcome the signing of the Moscow Treaty by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America on 24 May 2002, as a step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons. The world would be more secure, however, and relations among States more stable, if the reductions were made irreversible, transparent and verifiable. Those requirements are especially important in the light of the demise of the bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty on 13 June 2002, which was a cornerstone of strategic stability for 30 years. Another source of serious concern is the steep rise over the past year in global military spending, now estimated at $839 billion.

65. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, an international effort to promote transparency and confidence-building among States that trade in seven categories of major conventional weapons. In 2001, the number of participants in the Register rose by 20 per cent, to a total of 118 States. There was also increased participation in the other transparency measure, the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures.

66. Regional initiatives are driving progress on implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2001. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, relying entirely on voluntary funding, have supported those initiatives and assisted regional programmes for weapon collection and destruction, and training in developing relevant legislation and regulations.

67. Partnerships between the United Nations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have resulted in progress on mine action and nearly halted the production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Six States became parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines in 2001, bringing the total number of States parties to 124. The expansion of the scope of application of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to cover conflicts between and within States is another encouraging advance in international humanitarian and disarmament law.

68. Two groups of governmental experts, one on missiles in all their aspects and the other on disarmament and non-proliferation education, will complete studies for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and I commend their reports for action by Member States.

Sanctions

69. Recent Security Council action has involved imposing targeted measures and modifying existing sanctions regimes to render them more effective. By resolution 1390 (2002) Security Council expanded counter-terrorist measures beyond the territory of Afghanistan to include individuals and entities linked to the Taliban movement, Osama bin Laden and the al-Qa'idah organization. By resolution 1407 (2002) the Council established a panel of experts to make recommendations to improve enforcement of the embargo on weapons and military equipment concerning Somalia. Similarly, the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Liberia to investigate compliance with, and possible violations of, existing sanctions measures, pursuant to resolutions 1395 (2002) and 1408 (2002). By resolution 1409 (2002), the Council streamlined the sale and supply of humanitarian goods to benefit Iraq's civilian population, but strengthened control over military-related and dual-use items. Security Council sanctions measures were terminated in the cases of the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, and the Sudan. In addition, the Council, by resolution 1412 (2002), suspended the travel restrictions on members of UNITA for a period of 90 days.

70. With a view to addressing the possible humanitarian consequences of sanctions regimes, the Security Council is increasingly requesting evaluations of the impact of sanctions, assessments of the humanitarian implications of existing sanctions regimes and assessments prior to the imposition of sanctions. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, mandated to carry out assessments of the humanitarian implications of sanctions, is developing a standardized methodology to assess the potential effects of sanctions on vulnerable populations in advance of, during, or following the termination of sanctions regimes.

71. I am encouraged by the ongoing efforts at the intergovernmental and expert levels to design "smarter" Security Council sanctions measures. The Interlaken and Bonn-Berlin processes sought to sharpen such measures by focusing them on targeted leaders and non-State actors, minimizing their adverse humanitarian or economic effects on third States. The current Stockholm process focuses on the implementation of targeted sanctions. The participation of partners, especially from the private sector, in these expert meetings can help to build the political will necessary for effective sanctions. Refining financial sanctions will shore up efforts to block financial flows used for terrorist activities, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Finally, in addition to being an effective means to resolve conflicts, targeted sanctions could play an important deterrent role and contribute to an overall strategy for preventive diplomacy.

Chapter II
Meeting humanitarian commitments

72. The scale and diversity of the humanitarian challenges of the past year have underlined the need to further strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations to respond, quickly and effectively, and to offer comprehensive protection to civilians facing war and natural disaster. In a number of regions, particularly in Africa, long-standing humanitarian crises, many of which were intimately linked to protracted and violent intra-State and regional conflicts, continued unabated. Natural disasters, environmental emergencies and the spread of infectious diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, have also caused great loss of life.

73. The range of current crises has demanded a flexible, strategic and system-wide response linking the provision of emergency assistance to the search for sustainable solutions. The protection of civilians is at the centre of the wider United Nations response to complex emergencies. Although the means may vary by country and region, in all situations the United Nations focuses on its areas of comparative advantage, and builds strong partnerships with other international institutions, as well as with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

The challenge of protecting and assisting refugees and displaced populations

74. Alarming numbers of civilians — more than 50 million all told — continue to be displaced worldwide because of either natural disasters or armed conflict. While peace initiatives in countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka have provided opportunities for the reintegration of large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, the deepening humanitarian crises in other countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas have caused new waves of displacement. Obstacles preventing access to displaced populations, lack of respect for basic human rights and humanitarian principles and insufficient funding continue to pose enormous challenges for United Nations agencies, and the wider humanitarian community, in their efforts to bring protection and assistance to the most vulnerable.

75. This context requires system-wide policies and mechanisms to ensure a more predictable and collaborative response to the problems of internal displacement. An inter-agency Unit on Internal Displacement was created in January 2002, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator and in close cooperation with my Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, as well as with competent agencies. Already, the Unit has provided targeted support to country teams in humanitarian operations, using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the overall framework for its work, in Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Indonesia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe and elsewhere. It has also carried out field missions to assess the internal displacement situation, identify gaps in the response and make specific recommendations for improvement.

76. The response to problems of internal displacement rests primarily with the affected Member State. In a number of countries faced with severe displacement crises, the United Nations has worked closely with the national government to develop response strategies adapted to the specific circumstances. This has included incorporating minimum operating standards into national legislation, as in Angola and, more recently, Uganda, to ensure that displaced populations are moved from temporary shelters in insecure areas to settlements free from landmines and the risk of fighting, where basic services and protection can more readily be provided until return or permanent resettlement is possible. It has also allowed the United Nations to undertake negotiations with non-State actors to gain access to populations cut off from assistance, as in the Sudan and Colombia.

77. Of the millions of the world's displaced, refugees fall under the specific mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as do persons of concern to UNHCR. At the end of 2001, these numbered some 19.8 million people, comprising refugees, asylum-seekers, returning refugees in the early stages of reintegration and some internally displaced persons. In 2001, UNHCR launched an intensive process of engagement with States, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to revitalize the international refugee

protection framework, and to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Global Consultations on International Protection also sought to enable States to address current refugee protection challenges in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. The result of the Consultations is a comprehensive Agenda for Protection, which identifies key areas for improvement in protection and burden-sharing.

78. Positive developments in some countries allowed the return of over 700,000 refugees and internally displaced persons in 2001. Elsewhere, however, armed conflict and serious human rights violations led to new outflows of refugees, particularly in Africa. The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 led several States to adopt legal and practical measures to tighten asylum procedures. Some countries resorted to such measures as interception at sea in response to mixed movements of asylum-seekers and economic migrants.

79. In Africa, some 100,000 refugees from Sierra Leone voluntarily returned home from neighbouring countries as a result of greater stability since the end of the war, and the completion of the disarmament process. More than 50,000 refugees were repatriated from Ethiopia to north-western and north-eastern Somalia, and some 36,000 refugees returned to Eritrea from the Sudan. While these numbers are modest in relation to the total of 5 million refugees throughout Africa, they represent important progress.

80. Allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers have compelled the humanitarian community to take swift action on a number of fronts for both refugees and internally displaced persons. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has created a Task Force which has set out recommendations for specific standards of behaviour for humanitarian workers; improved mechanisms of accountability and responsibility, particularly for managers; and strengthened systems for providing protection and assistance to populations affected by humanitarian crises.

81. In order to achieve sustainable returns, UNHCR has collaborated with development agencies including UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank. These partnerships have focused on addressing the transition from relief to development and ensuring that returnees can rebuild their lives and engage in productive activities.

82. There have been some hopeful developments in south-eastern Europe. Initiatives in southern Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, such as the creation of a multi-ethnic police force, have helped to curb new outbreaks of violence. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, European monitors and representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and UNHCR helped to rebuild confidence between communities; more than 80 per cent of the 170,000 displaced people were assisted in returning to their homes. Similarly, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia some 100,000 refugees and internally displaced persons have been able to go home. More than 800,000 people from these countries have not yet been able to return home, however. UNHCR is continuing its efforts to ensure that local authorities implement property laws and assist with the reconstruction of properties destroyed by war, two measures which can support the repatriation process.

83. There was a positive example of local integration in Mexico, where the Government naturalized more than 1,300 Guatemalan refugees who chose not to be repatriated. Organized resettlement to third countries continued to provide a durable solution for many refugees, including, in particular, victims of trauma and refugees facing serious protection problems in countries of first asylum. In total, some 33,100 refugees (44 per cent of them female) were resettled under the auspices of UNHCR in 2001. Twenty-five countries received refugees on a resettlement basis, although just 10 countries accounted for 98 per cent of resettlement arrivals.

84. Efforts have been made to accord special attention to women, children (including adolescents) and older refugees to ensure that their needs are properly identified and met in the planning and implementation of refugee operations. Approximately 1 million refugee children and adolescents were enrolled in education programmes supported by UNHCR, UNICEF and other humanitarian partners. Girls and young women constituted approximately 40 per cent of those enrolled. United Nations agencies have continued to promote access to education, both as a fundamental human right and a means of reducing the risk of military recruitment, forced labour and prostitution among refugee children. Emphasis has also been placed on reducing the disproportionate effect of

statelessness on women when they seek to register marriages and births, obtain recognition of traditional marriages, avoid being trafficked, pass their legal status to their stateless children or spouses, and secure documentation. UNHCR continues to campaign to promote accession to the relevant conventions on statelessness, with some positive results.

Delivering humanitarian assistance and the challenge of underfunded emergencies

85. The challenges of delivering assistance and mobilizing adequate resources for underfunded emergencies remain much the same in 2002 as in recent years, and donor responses to United Nations Consolidated Appeals remain unsatisfactory. As the international security situation evolves as a result of counter-terrorist measures, and resources flood towards certain humanitarian situations, it is imperative that the international community pays close attention to and provides adequate resources for other humanitarian crises that are not so highly visible.

86. In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched one of its largest relief operations ever, almost doubling its assistance in the country, late in 2001, to reach more than 6 million people and position vital food stocks in advance of the difficult winter period. WFP continued to assist large segments of the world's poorest, most vulnerable and food insecure populations affected by natural calamities and man-made disasters. Thanks to a record level of contributions, it was able to assist 77 million people in 82 countries with almost 4.2 million tons of food aid, in the form of life-saving emergency food relief and assistance in protracted crisis situations. UNICEF assistance to the Afghan Ministry of Education ensured that over 2.9 million children returned to school by the time of the completion of the Back to School Campaign of March 2002.

87. Positive political developments have helped to improve humanitarian conditions, or have at least set the stage for expanded humanitarian assistance in a number of conflict zones. In Angola, the ceasefire agreement of 4 April 2002 vastly changed the humanitarian environment. At the beginning of 2002, humanitarian agencies were assisting 1.9 million vulnerable people. A further 800,000 vulnerable people are now accessible as a result of the ceasefire, some for the first time in several years. The health and nutritional status of many of these people, in particular women and children, is extremely poor and many need emergency aid. The specific health needs of women and adolescent girls, particularly with regard to reproductive health, require attention. A dramatic increase in resources will be necessary to cope with this new group of people in need of assistance.

88. The improvement in the security situation in Sierra Leone since January 2002 has allowed humanitarian agencies access to all parts of the country for the first time in 10 years. This has permitted UNICEF to support the expansion of primary school education by renovating schools, supplying teaching and learning materials and furniture, and providing refresher training for teachers. Education helps to restore normality, and plays a crucial role in the reintegration of child ex-combatants.

89. In many other places, however, peace negotiations have stalled and increased insecurity has rendered huge numbers of people inaccessible. In Liberia, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated considerably as a result of ongoing fighting between Government forces and armed elements of the opposition movement. It is estimated that only 120,000 people are now receiving humanitarian assistance, while approximately 200,000 vulnerable and displaced persons remain inaccessible in rural areas. Yet the appeal for funds to meet needs in Liberia has met only a very limited response in 2002, and several United Nations agencies have not received any funding at all through the appeal. This has resulted in a critical inability to provide for such basic needs as shelter and water.

90. The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained extremely poor. For United Nations humanitarian agencies, access remains the greatest constraint. They were forced, for example, to evacuate Shabunda in April 2002, when, according to nutritional surveys, the rate of global malnutrition among children under 5 was higher than 20 per cent. The humanitarian situation in the east has been of particular concern. The eruption in January 2002 of Mt. Nyiragongo, on the outskirts of Goma, forced almost the entire population of the city to flee temporarily. UNICEF and partner agencies provided assistance to more than 80,000 families affected by the eruption.

91. In the Sudan, the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate. Protracted conflict in Eastern Equatoria, and elsewhere in the country, has uprooted families and prevents civilians from obtaining food, clean water, health care and education. The continuing abductions of women and children are also deeply troubling. In January 2002, a ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains was brokered, allowing needs assessments and relief deliveries in this formerly unserved area.

92. In Iraq, the oil-for-food programme, established by Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and administered by the Office of the Iraq Programme, has continued to provide food, health, nutrition, housing, agriculture, water and sanitation. The delivery of health care improved in the 15 central and southern governorates of Iraq, mainly owing to a wider availability of local and imported drugs and an increase in the number of surgical operations and laboratory investigations performed. In the housing sector, in 2001, 14.9 million square metres of housing were built in the central and southern governorates, providing homes for approximately half a million people, and generating over 200,000 new jobs for skilled and unskilled workers.

93. In the past seven years more than US$ 23 billion worth of humanitarian supplies and equipment has been delivered to Iraq under the programme, while more than $10 billion worth of additional supplies are in the production and delivery pipeline. Yet there is a growing funding shortfall because of the drop in oil exports, and a corresponding drop in revenues available to the programme.

94. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provides education, health, relief and social services as well as income-generation programmes to more than 4 million Palestine refugees. As at 31 May 2002, donor pledges amounted to $254.5 million, leaving an estimated deficit of $53 million. A decline in funding would jeopardize the quality and extent of health and education services provided by the Agency. The major escalation in violence since February 2002 has led to the destruction of civic infrastructure on a very large scale. Many Palestinians, including refugees, who depended on the public sector services provided by the Palestinian Authority, are now expected to look to the Agency for relief. It is estimated that this would require additional expenditure by the Agency of $46 million in the West Bank alone. The Agency is preparing to issue a supplementary appeal to cover these additional emergency costs. In view of this situation, I appointed my Personal Humanitarian Envoy to undertake a mission to assess the nature and scale of the humanitarian crisis in the region.

95. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United Nations and partner organizations have made some progress in meeting the basic needs of the population, and have supported efforts to create a transition to development. A critical lack of funding, particularly for essential drugs and emergency nutritional rehabilitation programmes, has however, placed vulnerable groups fatally at risk, even though the threats are preventable. Of concern is the lack of funding for nutrition programmes. UNICEF has received less than 10 per cent of the funds required to support severely malnourished children, even though 2.5 million children under 5 and some 930,000 pregnant and nursing women are at risk. Similarly, in April 2002, WFP was forced to halt the distribution of cereals to children and the elderly, so as to preserve those resources for the most vulnerable persons.

96. With regard to child protection, a notable success in 2001 was the demobilization of more than 3,500 child soldiers in the Sudan; a product of more than 12 months' negotiation, planning and preparation. Other measures have included wide-ranging activities in humanitarian mine awareness in Somalia; programmes to develop the fostering of children without primary caregivers in Uganda; and campaigns to support birth registration in Angola.

97. Through National Immunization Days entire communities have been mobilized by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner organizations, and children otherwise inaccessible to aid workers have been reached. These mass campaigns have already been held in a number of areas in conflict, including Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. To allow this immunization work to be carried out in the midst of fighting, "days of tranquillity" have been negotiated with the warring parties, creating humanitarian ceasefires. Such initiatives have also led to non-health developments, for example in Sierra Leone, where the negotiations helped to move the peace process forward.

98. In April and May 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP carried out a joint mission to assess six southern African countries. Those countries are seriously

affected by food shortages and are threatened by a range of other factors, including increased vulnerability resulting from HIV/AIDS. The assessment found that up to 13 million people may be at risk of starvation. As a result of the findings, the United Nations launched appeals in July 2002 for the affected countries, seeking $611 million for relief assistance. The initial response has been positive.

99. The United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF and UNDP are the principal entities involved in humanitarian mine action. UNICEF supports mine-awareness programmes in over 25 mine-affected countries and UNDP provides technical advice in 16 countries. The humanitarian mine action programme, coordinated by the Mine Action Service in the province of Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, came to an end in December 2001, after two and a half years; all areas known to be affected by landmines or unexploded ordnance have been cleared to an acceptable residual level.

100. Attacks on humanitarian workers over the past year highlighted the importance of staff safety and security and, conversely, the need for an uncontested humanitarian presence on the ground. The lack of adequate security for the maintenance of humanitarian operations leading to the withdrawal of international assistance has been the primary impediment to reaching the vulnerable.

101. As a result of a growing recognition that staff security should be funded from the regular budget, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator now has a full-time Security Coordinator at the Assistant Secretary-General level and a core budget, and has deployed 100 field security officers in crisis areas. Initiatives to improve security management have included establishing minimum operating security standards (which define basic security measures for a given country or operational environment), mandatory security training for 4,500 United Nations staff members working in high-risk environments, and the dissemination of information, selection criteria for security personnel and training standards and methodologies through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network.

102. Yet, despite the best efforts of the United Nations to provide its staff with the skills and resources to ensure operational security, during the first seven months of 2002 four United Nations staff members have been killed, and two abducted.

Natural disaster management: responding to emergencies and building capacities

103. The frequency and severity of natural disasters continue to increase, affecting, on average, around 200 million people per year, people who lose their homes, land and access to jobs. Increasingly, natural disasters have come to pose a threat to the gains made by development.

104. The United Nations system has been working closely with national Governments to strengthen their preventive and response capacities. UNDP has been advocating the inclusion of disaster risk considerations in all phases of national development planning, in particular for capacity-building in disaster prone countries in accordance with the goals of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

105. Where there are limited viable national mechanisms to respond to natural disasters, the United Nations assists through mobilization of resources and the provision of emergency and rehabilitation assistance to affected populations. In the first half of 2002, two natural disasters, both occurring within the context of ongoing complex emergencies, called for an integrated United Nations response in both the emergency and recovery phases of the disaster — the volcanic eruption in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and an earthquake in Afghanistan.

106. Drought is currently affecting southern Africa and Central Asia, and floods have recently hit Afghanistan, Central Europe, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and South Asia. The severity of climatic variation is likely to increase, leading to more drought and flooding. To help countries to be better prepared to cope with weather-related disasters, including a possible new El Niño cycle, the United Nations system is strengthening existing early warning systems as well as providing advice, education and training to increase resilience in the event of natural disasters.

Coordination of assistance and the protection of civilians in armed conflict

107. A principal role of the United Nations in the humanitarian field, in addition to providing direct relief, is the coordination of assistance and protection for people in distress. Today, the community of organizations and institutions around the world engaged in humanitarian work is larger and more varied than ever. Coordination therefore requires timely and efficacious planning, the avoidance of duplication, and efficient and effective delivery of emergency relief. Through the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator system, United Nations country teams have continued to promote the coherence of crisis response around the world, by providing in-country support to relief, rehabilitation and recovery activities.

108. In most situations, the United Nations acts in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations to establish emergency coordination mechanisms, negotiate access, mobilize resources, and provide common services such as flight operations and communications.

109. During the past year, coordination work involved continuing assistance to long-standing complex emergencies. All 18 countries or regions for which the United Nations launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal were areas that had already seen a prolonged United Nations humanitarian engagement. In every case, coordination arrangements were reviewed or strengthened, and efforts to obtain increased funding continued. Coordination arrangements were most significantly revised in Afghanistan, resulting in the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, an integrated mission designed to support the political, governance and peace-building process while simultaneously responding to urgent humanitarian and recovery needs. UNAMA contains a relief recovery and reconstruction pillar, headed by my Deputy Special Representative, who performs the responsibilities of the Resident Coordinator, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the designated official for security. Supporting the field operations, a joint working group of the United Nations Development Group and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs has developed the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghanistan, through which relief, recovery and rehabilitation activities are implemented by means of an integrated strategy, focusing on developing national capacity.

110. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan thus seeks to build a new model of strategic coordination with the Government of Afghanistan. Programme coordination at the national level is managed through eight programme secretariats that are responsible for assisting counterpart Government departments. For each programme secretariat, a particular United Nations organization, fund or programme has been designated, for example UNICEF for education and WHO for health.

111. In November 2001, I issued my second report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The protection of civilians is an umbrella concept that embraces legal, military, humanitarian assistance and human rights concerns. Several practical measures have been taken during the past year. Child protection and gender advisers have been incorporated into peacekeeping missions; recent Security Council resolutions have advocated for safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including women and children, and the Council is considering designing sanctions in such a way as to limit any unintended humanitarian impact.

112. In March 2002, the Security Council formulated an aide-memoire (S/PRST/2002/6, annex), intended to guide deliberations for the establishment, review or termination of peacekeeping operations. The aide-memoire has already been used within the Secretariat during country-specific discussions with regard to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, for example, in the context of the Angola peace agreement and, most recently, as a means of reviewing the experience of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

113. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants is often a fundamental requirement in the effort to end conflicts and achieve sustainable peace and lasting development. Ex-combatants must be assisted to return to normal civilian life, their communities may often need support to receive them, and the entire effort must be supported by the political will of the parties to the conflict and the international community. Effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes must extend from the immediate post-conflict period to longer-term development efforts, and, they therefore require the coordinated efforts of various elements of

the United Nations and the international community, host Governments and the parties to the conflict. Over the past decade, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration tasks were included in a number of peacekeeping mandates, including those relating to Angola, Cambodia, Liberia and Mozambique. The many lessons drawn from those experiences are informing ongoing efforts, such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, where MONUC and UNAMSIL have played a lead role during the reporting period in coordination with United Nations and other partners, including the World Bank. In seeking comprehensive approaches and linking peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance to longer-term recovery strategies, the experience of UNDP in supporting the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and in small arms reduction has proved most valuable. Such programmes reduce insecurity and facilitate the regeneration of economic activity in countries such as Chad and the Central African Republic and regions such as the Great Lakes. Similarly, the work of UNICEF in the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers has continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and elsewhere. Over the coming years, more attention will need to be paid to integrating these programmes into a broad strategy for sustainable solutions to ensure human security.

Chapter III
Cooperating for development

Eradicating extreme poverty

114. Eradicating poverty remains a central priority for the United Nations system. The millennium development goals clearly articulate the various dimensions of poverty that must be addressed. Efforts continue to ensure that interventions to alleviate poverty are effective and targeted, and to secure international cooperation in resource mobilization, policy planning and implementation. During the past year, several global conferences have been held to shore up support for the millennium development goals by advancing towards a more participatory trading system at Doha, by building consensus on financing for development at Monterrey and by reaffirming commitments to sustainable development at Johannesburg.

115. United Nations development initiatives are focused on the eradication of poverty at the local level, and promote a decentralized, participatory approach to the provision of basic infrastructure and the management of natural resources. The programmes focus on partnerships with Governments, local authorities and civil society to ensure that local investments match local needs and that they are managed efficiently.

116. The multidimensional nature of poverty is increasingly being addressed through policies targeted at women, children and the growing number of urban poor. Women make up the majority of the world's poor, and are frequently denied access to the natural resources, credit, technology and training that they need to become financially independent. The United Nations Development Programme has been working in Brazil, where mothers were targeted for small incentive payments; these were used to reward them for enrolling and keeping their children in school. This initiative now brings $1 billion annually to 5 million of Brazil's poorest families, and supports nearly 10 million children in school. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is working to eradicate poverty among women by assisting their efforts to gain control over money and assets and providing opportunities for them to participate in the market economy. Programmes include the Technical Resources Network for small and micro-enterprises in the Arab States, a forum for South Asian women entrepreneurs, a network of Peruvian and Ecuadorian women artisans, and networks of women entrepreneurs using information and communication technologies to access new markets.

117. United Nations anti-poverty interventions on behalf of children focus on health and basic education. The UNICEF immunization plus programme delivers a set of essential and cost-effective maternal and child health interventions. The programme offers safe immunization, with all available cost-effective vaccines and vitamin A capsule supplements where necessary. Globally, the distribution of vitamin A capsules, added to immunizations, may have saved up to 1 million children. With regard to education, UNICEF has prioritized the rights of girls and AIDS orphans. In line with the Dakar Framework for Action, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with various partners, supports the adoption of Education for All plans aimed at reinforcing formal and non-formal education for poor children. The World Food Programme is helping poor children, especially girls, to attend primary school through school feeding programmes and by providing take-home rations. In 2001, 15 million children in 57 countries benefited from this assistance.

118. At the international level, increasing attention is being given to the problem of chronic food shortages, and to the role of agricultural and rural development in poverty reduction. Agricultural trade-related issues were given prominence in negotiations at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha in November 2001. The International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, gave serious consideration to the need for greater investment in rural areas for agriculture. The momentum generated at Monterrey was carried through to the World Food Summit held in Rome in June 2002. Governments reaffirmed commitments to goals established at the previous World Food Summit five years earlier, and acknowledged the need for increased investment for hunger reduction. Direct food assistance is an essential complement to longer-term agricultural development efforts to address hunger.

119. Almost 3 billion people, half the world's population, now live in cities. By 2030, the proportion is expected to reach 60 per cent. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) focuses on alleviating the most visible manifestations of urban poverty, namely, inadequate housing and homelessness, weak infrastructure and poor basic services, and on the linkages between urban poverty, on the one hand, and the environment, disaster management, security and urban governance, on the other. In December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into a fully-fledged United Nations Human Settlements Programme, demonstrating a commitment to implementing the millennium development goals, including the urgent need to improve the lives of more than 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The Programme's activities have included producing and disseminating a toolkit to support participatory urban decision-making and producing *Participation to Partnership*, an evaluation of lessons learned from urban governance projects in 200 cities. The Safer Cities Programme undertook eight city projects in seven African countries, and initiated programmes in the Pacific islands and in Latin America. During 2001, the Programme focused on appraising urban insecurity, promoting policies to prevent juvenile crime and gender violence, and supporting the development of new forms of urban policing.

Cooperating to attain the millennium development goals

120. At the request of the General Assembly, I have submitted to it at its fifty-seventh session the first annual report on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration, including the millennium development goals. That report, which gives an overview of all the commitments set out in the Declaration, includes a statistical annex that tracks progress made in achieving the millennium development goals, starting from a common baseline.

121. A number of measures have been taken in 2001 and 2002 which will help to develop an open, rule-based, predictable, and non-discriminatory trading system and improve market access for exports from developing countries, central to the millennium development goals. The Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) successfully increased the membership of WTO to 144, and agreed on an agenda for further trade negotiations. In addition to continuing negotiations on agriculture, services, non-agricultural products and the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS), the Doha work programme also includes a broad range of issues for future negotiation (known as "Singapore issues" and including investment and competition policy). The Doha agreements also highlight questions relating to the special and differential treatment of developing economies and enhanced market access under existing agreements. The agreements put considerable emphasis on capacity-building and technical assistance, which the United Nations system is helping to implement. The next ministerial meeting of WTO will be held in Mexico in 2003. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continues to assist developing countries to participate in the international trading system. Programmes are aimed at expanding the trading opportunities of developing countries, by building up their capacity in this area through policy advisory services, access to information and training. The emphasis is on the enlargement and improvement of export market opportunities, including the commodities sector, and on improving the efficiency and cutting down the costs of export and import transactions.

122. More than 50 heads of State and Government and over 200 ministers for foreign affairs, trade, development and finance gathered at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 for the International Conference on Financing for Development. It was the first United Nations-sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial issues pertaining to global development and was held with the active collaboration of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WTO.

123. At the Conference, heads of State and Government adopted the Monterrey Consensus, which outlines actions to be implemented in areas that are at the core of the millennium development goals, namely, mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development; enhancing foreign direct investment and other private flows; expanding international trade as an engine for development; increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; making external debt sustainable; and addressing systemic issues.

124. Building on the outcomes of the Conference, the United Nations will continue to collaborate with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and other partners to implement the Monterrey Consensus. Stronger cooperation on financing for development among ministries of finance, trade, development and planning and foreign affairs and civil society should be promoted. Such global partnerships are critical for achieving the millennium development goals.

Sustainable development

125. The year 2002 marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The decision of the General Assembly to organize the 10-year review at the summit level and convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 gained strong support from Member States and civil society across the world.

126. Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development were undertaken at the national and regional levels. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNDP, launched an international survey for the 10-year anniversary of the Rio Conference. The Department, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP provided assistance to countries in support of preparations at the national level. Technical cooperation was also provided to developing countries in such areas as new and renewable sources of energy, solar energy, small-scale hydropower, sustainable energy plans, water supply and water quality. A series of recommendations to reflect gender perspectives in research, policies and capacity-building in the areas of environmental management and natural disaster mitigation emanated from an expert group meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction at Ankara in November 2001.

127. At the regional level, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and African regional and subregional organizations, convened deliberative processes resulting in the adoption of an African Ministerial Declaration on the priorities of the region regarding sustainable development. The main challenge ahead is to reinforce the institutional capacity for the implementation of the regional programme.

Africa

128. African leaders have created the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in which they commit themselves to improving governance and managing their economies better. Specifically, clear standards are being set for accountability, transparency and participatory governance; appropriate standards and targets are being stipulated for fiscal and monetary policies, and transparent legal frameworks for financial markets are being established. The African Peer Review Mechanism, to monitor progress in compliance with such standards, has been established and will be an important instrument for achieving those objectives. These steps deserve the strong support of the international community. For its part, the United Nations will continue to support African development priorities within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and through the African Union.

129. The Economic Commission for Africa has worked closely with African Governments to develop codes and standards for the economic and corporate governance initiative of the NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism. To monitor and report on the status of integration on the continent, a new flagship publication of ECA was launched during the African Development Forum III, in March 2002. The *Annual Report on Integration in Africa* will provide qualitative and quantitative information on regional integration for use by policy makers, the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations. FAO is assisting NEPAD in a joint programme to ensure agricultural stability and economic development. Such programmes in support of Africa within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development must be pursued.

130. An independent review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was completed in May 2002. The independent evaluation, undertaken by a panel of eminent personalities, concluded that the New Agenda had fallen short of its objectives, and highlighted lessons that could be useful for other initiatives on African development. It critically reviewed the past reliance on liberalization, privatization and market-based reforms and recommended that development strategies be

developed at the national level, and with a balance between macroeconomic stability and long-term structural transformation. At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly will consider the final review of the implementation of the New Agenda, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

131. The Economic and Social Council has demonstrated its willingness to play an important role in peace-building in Africa. In July 2002, by its resolution 2002/1, the Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, a limited but flexible and representative ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflicts. I am pleased to note that consultations for establishing the first ad hoc advisory group are well under way.

Addressing the needs of the least developed countries

132. The General Assembly by resolution 56/227 established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The Office is responsible for United Nations system-wide coordination, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community.

133. The challenge now for the 49 least developed countries, and donor countries, is to build capacity to ensure that the Brussels Programme of Action is implemented as soon as possible. The United Nations system will mobilize and coordinate actions to facilitate the implementation of the Programme at the national, regional, subregional and global levels.

134. The geographical handicaps and economic and ecological vulnerabilities of the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 26 of which are also least developed countries, continue to constrain their overall development. The General Assembly requested me last December to convene in 2003 an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. The preparatory process for that Meeting was launched in June 2002, coordinated by the Office of the High Representative, in cooperation with the World Bank, UNCTAD and the regional commissions.

135. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2002*, published by UNCTAD, assesses the progress of the least developed countries towards the millennium development goals. Least developed countries continue to be the primary beneficiaries of various UNCTAD capacity-building programmes in the areas of customs reform, transit transport, business and trade facilitation and international trade. To assist countries which have not fully benefited from the WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close collaboration with WTO, held courses and seminars in trade policy, from May 2001 to June 2002. The seminars also discussed trade and investment opportunities in the Greater Mekong subregion. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues its assistance to the least developed countries through programmes on improving industrial governance and institutional infrastructure, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, upgrading technological capacities, enhancing skills and access to modern technology, building trade and export capabilities and adopting energy efficiency and cleaner production measures.

Battling HIV/AIDS

136. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) serves as a hub for policy advice and strategic information based on scientific evidence, and for tracking the global response to the epidemic. At the country level, UNAIDS provides support to 130 United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS, encouraging United Nations organizations to address HIV/AIDS issues, in most cases embracing key national partners, and ensuring United Nations support to national programmes. Of the 50 United Nations country teams that had completed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework by end of 2001, 70 per cent had included HIV/AIDS as a key element or a cross-cutting theme. During the past year, all United Nations agencies, in particular UNAIDS

co-sponsors, have significantly increased their resources to support the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in Africa. The World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme for Africa now totals $1 billion. In April 2002, the World Health Organization endorsed the inclusion of 12 anti-retroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV infection in its Model List of Essential Medicines, facilitating their registration in countries and their procurement by major distributors. WHO also issued guidelines for increasing the use of anti-retroviral therapy in poorer areas. In November 2001, at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, WTO members unanimously declared that TRIPS could and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all. The Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, adopted by the International Labour Organization in 2001, provided practical guidance to Governments, employers and workers for developing workplace programmes on HIV/AIDS.

137. Other organizations within the United Nations system are increasing their efforts in response to the disease. In 2001, FAO, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) harmonized policies on the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural poverty, with the aim of developing a common framework for the agricultural sector. Increasingly, IFAD-financed poverty alleviation and rural investment programmes and projects in Africa incorporate activities aimed at HIV prevention and at tempering the effect of the epidemic on rural households, particularly orphans, through viable social safety net programmes.

138. The growing global commitment to fight HIV/AIDS is reflected in the increasing levels of funding within national budgets and for bilateral and multilateral development assistance. Only nine months after I called for such a fund at the OAU Summit at Abuja, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in January 2002. The establishment of the Fund was made possible through concerted action by a wide range of stakeholders, including bilateral donors, the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector. Since early in 2001, a total of almost $2.1 billion has been pledged to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Fund will provide significant additional resources for national HIV/AIDS efforts, an important step towards addressing the global funding gap. At its meeting in April 2002, the Fund's Board approved a total of $616 million in grants, for all three diseases, for two years in more than 30 countries.

139. Despite successes in halting or reversing the spread of the epidemic in a growing number of countries, among them Cambodia, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia, the global HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to spread. Parts of Asia, which had previously not seen high levels of HIV, are now faced with a growing epidemic, and parts of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are now experiencing some of the most explosive growth rates in the world. In high-income countries, where significant successes had been recorded in reducing AIDS mortality, increases in the practice of unsafe sex and in HIV infection are indicating more recent complacency.

Social development

140. The United Nations continues to address a wide range of social concerns, including ageing populations and people with disabilities; drug abuse and transnational crime; and urban governance. Technical cooperation in the area of social development included studies on the social dimensions of macroeconomic adjustment, support for the preparation of national human development reports, strengthening government ministries and units concerned with promoting women's role in development, studies of poverty in specific regions, and social impact assessments of various policies.

Ageing and people with disabilities

141. The Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Madrid in April 2002, highlighted the need to link ageing to human rights and social and economic development. It also drafted a set of objectives and specific actions for Governments, international organizations and civil society. As a regional follow-up to the Assembly, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) initiated negotiations in April 2002 on the ECE regional implementation strategy, which will be adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Ageing to be held in Berlin in September 2002. The United Nations system supported a number of regional activities over the course of the year to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Combating drug abuse and transnational crime

142. In 2001 the United Nations International Drug Control Programme pursued a balanced approach encompassing support for the efforts of Member States to reduce demand and eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and coca plant. Much headway was made in promoting the ratification and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Protocols thereto, which address the issues of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit trafficking in firearms. Anti-money-laundering activities included the provision of support in legal, financial, law enforcement and training efforts by the Programme.

143. Steps to improve inter-agency coordination were taken at the first Inter-Agency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting, held at Vienna in February 2002. Representatives of United Nations agencies and other international organizations exchanged views on anti-corruption activities and discussed ways and means of enhancing the coordination of anti-corruption policies. Member States have also embarked upon the drafting of a major instrument, a convention against corruption, setting the end of 2003 as a target date for its completion.

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Promoting development through the use of information and communication technologies

144. In November 2001 I inaugurated a United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, an innovative mechanism that brought together relevant stakeholders in a common effort to harness the potential of information technology. Working in close collaboration with other initiatives, including the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) set up by the Group of Eight, our Task Force is now ready to assist Member States, especially the least developed countries, in such vital areas as integrating information and communication technologies into national development strategies.

145. Another significant step in this direction was taken by the General Assembly at its meeting devoted to information and communication technologies for development, held in June 2002 at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly. The General Assembly reaffirmed the multi-stakeholder approach of Governments, the private sector, the global civil society and the United Nations in promoting the use of information and communication technologies.

Data collection and analysis to support development

146. Assessing progress towards reaching the millennium development goals requires a solid information base. In April 2002, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with all organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, prepared the first global progress report on the millennium development goals. The indicator data series underlying the analysis can be accessed on the Statistics Division's new millennium indicator web site, http://millenniumindicators.un.org. Over the next few years the United Nations will continue to work with partner agencies to improve the common databases. Moreover, considerable progress was made in enhancing the national statistical capacities of Member States in important fields such as statistical management and organization, statistical classifications, census and survey mechanisms, national accounting, trade, environment and energy statistics. This will enable them to produce their own reliable and timely data series, which will facilitate continued monitoring of progress.

Chapter IV
The international legal order and human rights

Human rights development

147. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to provide leadership on promoting and protecting human rights for all, at the global, regional and national levels. Programmes to complement national efforts include advising on the incorporation of international human rights norms into constitutions and legislation, assisting with national human rights plans of action and supporting the development of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Office also worked within the United Nations to integrate human rights into all its activities, including activities relating to the rule of law, sustainable development, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping and peace-building.

148. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-eighth session at Geneva in March and April 2002. The Commission met under the shadow of the attacks of 11 September 2001 and their direct or indirect consequences for many countries, and the deteriorating situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. While States must take measures to protect their citizens against terror, they must also recognize that security cannot be achieved at the expense of human rights. On the contrary, stronger protection of and respect for human rights, democracy and social justice are integral to the promotion of security.

149. The fifty-eighth session of the Commission enjoyed wide participation; it was attended not only by its 53 member States, but also by almost all of the rest of the Members of the United Nations as observers. Special rapporteurs and independent experts prepared reports on several countries and on themes relating to civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. They included 28 separate reports that raise critical human rights concerns about specific country situations, providing information that can be used for developing integrated approaches to the maintenance of peace and security, the rule of law and sustainable development. The Commission adopted 92 resolutions and 18 decisions, despite the loss of one third of its meeting time because of budgetary cuts.

150. The core mission of the Commission on Human Rights is to extend the culture of human rights based on universal values and to act to protect the victims of violations of human rights all over the world. If the Commission is to retain its vital protection and promotion role, it must provide leadership, and be willing to evaluate and strengthen national protection systems. It is unfortunate that the fifty-eighth session was characterized by a marked increase in block voting by groups. Progress was made on issues such as racism, the right to health, the right to development, and enforced or involuntary disappearances, and on developing a protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

151. Despite the difficulties it encountered, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in 2001 adopted a comprehensive anti-discrimination agenda. Implementing that agenda is now more relevant than ever. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established by the Economic and Social Council, was inaugurated in New York in May 2002. The Forum offers an opportunity to address the disadvantages faced by indigenous peoples. It has the potential to generate high-level technical expertise on indigenous issues, and will build critical partnerships between indigenous communities and the United Nations system.

152. Human rights protection is strengthened by means of the reporting and communications system established under the core United Nations human rights treaties. The Office of the High Commissioner assists the work of the human rights treaty bodies, which provide systematic and regular assessments of the implementation by States of their human rights commitments. From June 2001 to June 2002 the six treaty bodies examined more than 100 State reports. From more than 40 per cent of the reports the Committees were able to acknowledge legislative or policy changes by the reporting State that enhance the protection of human rights. Nevertheless, considerable efforts are required to ensure effective follow-up, at the domestic level, to the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the treaty bodies.

153. The treaty body system provides opportunities for individual victims of human rights violations to submit complaints for examination. From June 2000 to June 2002, the Office dealt with more than 103,000 such complaints. Moreover, since their establishment, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have registered 1,324 communications and, not counting decisions to discontinue cases, have adopted 809 final decisions. The jurisprudence of the treaty bodies offers important policy direction to States, often leading to legislative and policy reforms beyond the individual case. From June 2001 to June 2002, the special rapporteurs and independent experts issued more than 945 urgent appeals to 56 States concerning allegations of violations of human rights such as torture, summary and extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, and violations of the right to freedom of expression. The Office of the High Commissioner has taken significant steps to ensure that such claims are addressed in an effective and efficient manner.

154. Following a request by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner is currently developing guidelines on a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies. The guidelines will translate international human rights norms, standards and principles into operational guidelines for practitioners involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies.

155. At the regional level, the Office has worked in partnership with Governments, regional organizations and civil society to identify strategies to address human rights concerns. To this end, a meeting of European and Central Asian countries was held in October 2001 at Dubrovnik, Croatia, in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Useful consultations were also held at Geneva on strategies for African countries, in November 2001, and for Central and South American countries in December 2001. A further African dialogue meeting was held at Arusha in May 2002, attended by States, non-governmental organizations and human rights experts. Those meetings created important frameworks for action in the various regions on issues relating to the rule of law, the administration of justice, racial discrimination, and economic, social and cultural rights.

156. To assist in the implementation of human rights strategies, the High Commissioner for Human Rights placed human rights representatives in the headquarters of the regional commissions at Bangkok, Beirut, Santiago and Addis Ababa, and also at Pretoria, working closely with the South African Development Community. The Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa was established at Yaounde to serve nine countries of the subregion.

The International Criminal Court

157. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court entered into force on 1 July 2002, approximately four years after its adoption. The pace of ratification has been remarkable, demonstrating a firm international resolve to hold individuals who commit war crimes and crimes against humanity responsible for their actions. Rarely have States and civil society been so united in advocating for a common cause. The Rome Statute has already contributed to the advancement of criminal law, consistent with human rights standards and due process, at national and international levels. The entry into force of the Statute has spurred a worldwide demand for accountability, particularly from those in positions of political or military leadership.

158. The first meeting of the Assembly of States Parties will be held in September 2002. The principal officials and staff of the Court, including the judges, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, will have been elected or appointed by August 2003, and will assume their functions at the seat of the Court at The Hague. The vision of a permanent international criminal court, a goal of the United Nations for more than 50 years, will finally become a reality.

159. Much progress has been made on the operational aspects of the Court. The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court held its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions at United Nations Headquarters, in September/October 2001, April 2002 and July 2002, respectively.

160. At its eighth session, the Preparatory Commission adopted draft texts of the Relationship Agreement between the Court and the United Nations, the Financial Regulations, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, as well as

draft resolutions on the establishment of the Committee on Budget and Finance and on criteria for voluntary contributions to the Court. The Commission also continued its consideration of the crime of aggression and began discussions on a budget for the Court.

161. At its ninth session, the Preparatory Commission made progress on many of the issues raised at the previous session, adopting a further report containing draft texts of the Financial Rules and the basic principles governing a headquarters agreement between the Court and the host country. Resolutions were drafted concerning the provisional arrangements for the secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties and on crediting contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of the Court. The Commission began to consider procedures for electing the judges, the Prosecutor and the Registrar. At its tenth and final session, the Preparatory Commission completed all the operational arrangements for the Court.

162. Despite the recent debate in the Security Council about the jurisdiction of the Court, I remain optimistic that even those Governments that have been sceptical about the Court have not fully closed the door to accepting the Rome Statute. Those who fear the erosion of national sovereignty should recognize that, in accordance with the principle of complementarity enshrined in the Rome Statute, national criminal justice systems will always have the first opportunity to exercise jurisdiction over serious violations of international humanitarian law. The greater the number of States that establish jurisdiction over such crimes, the stronger the affirmation of the principle that States have the primary right and duty to hold those who commit them accountable. What is most critical is that the community of States understands that the risks posed by the Court and its Statute are minor compared to inaction in the face of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

163. I consider the universality of the Rome Statute critical to the Court's ability to promote the rule of law, end impunity and prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. By 31 December 2000, the last day the Rome Statute was open for signature, there were 139 signatories. To date, 76 States have ratified and thus become parties to the Statute. It is essential that all States that have not yet done so embrace the cause of international criminal justice by signing, ratifying and implementing the Statute as soon as possible.

International Tribunals

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

164. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has made significant strides during the past year towards completing all trial activities by 2008, and disposing of all appeals by 2010. The addition of nine ad litem judges has been integral to the Tribunal's completion strategy, making it possible for six trials to be conducted simultaneously. Another important element of the strategy is the Tribunal's decision to focus on the prosecution and trial of the highest-ranking political, military and paramilitary leaders, while transferring the cases of mid-level accused to national courts for trial, particularly the courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 2002, the Tribunal submitted a report to the Security Council setting out this proposed broad programme of action. In July 2002, the Council endorsed that programme, and, over the coming months, the Tribunal will begin to implement the programme.

165. The Tribunal has also implemented a range of reforms during the past year to enhance its efficiency and accelerate the preparation and completion of trials. These include amending the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which has enabled judges to improve the management and control of proceedings by increasing their powers at the trial and pre-trial stages. The Appeals Chamber has improved its working practices and procedures so as to better manage its rapidly increasing workload. Two additional judges from the International Tribunal for Rwanda have joined the Appeals Chamber, which should increase its judicial capacity and ensure greater uniformity in the case law of the two Tribunals. Steps have also been taken to establish a bar association for defence counsel appearing before the Tribunal to ensure better communication between the Tribunal and defence lawyers, to enhance their familiarity with the Tribunal's rules, procedures and case law, and to bring about an overall improvement in standards of professional conduct.

166. During the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of accused who have either

surrendered to the Tribunal or have been arrested and transferred to The Hague. The Tribunal's Detention Unit has 42 of the accused in custody at present, and a further nine are on provisional release. Of the accused, 25 currently have their cases at the pre-trial stage, 11 are on trial, 12 are on appeal and one is awaiting verdict. During the past year, the Tribunal has completed three trials, involving eight accused, and has disposed of two appeals, by five accused, from the verdicts of its Trial Chambers. The Tribunal has transferred three detainees to Spain and two to Austria to serve out their sentences.

167. The trial of Slobodan Milošević, former President of Serbia and of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, opened in February 2002, the accused conducting his own defence. The Prosecutor is due to finish presenting the Kosovo portion of her case by the summer recess in 2002. After the recess, she will begin presentation of the other portions of her case, dealing with charges arising out of events in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. She is due to complete her case by April 2003. The failure to arrest Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić, both indicted by the Tribunal, continues to undermine respect for the rule of law. Every effort must be made to ensure that these indicted war criminals are brought to justice without further delay.

168. The Prosecutor has spent considerable time encouraging Governments to make arrests and respond to requests for assistance from her Office. While cooperation with Croatia and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been satisfactory, a lack of cooperation from the Republika Srpska remains a source of major concern, as it poses a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Prosecutor's mandate. Nevertheless, the Prosecutor expects to complete all investigations by the end of 2004, by which time she anticipates that she will have submitted indictments against some 100 additional accused.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

169. In December 2001, the International Tribunal for Rwanda transferred six of the persons whom it has tried and convicted to Mali to serve their prison sentences. Among them was Jean Kambanda, Prime Minister and Head of the Interim Government of Rwanda from April to July 1994. Mr. Kambanda is the first head of Government to be convicted of genocide by an international tribunal. The Tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment.

170. Over the course of the past year, States have arrested and transferred a total of seven accused to Arusha. In an effort to secure the arrest and transfer of other accused individuals, the Tribunal's Registrar met with the Presidents of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in February 2002 to encourage them to apprehend and hand over wanted persons believed to have taken refuge in those two States. Both heads of State pledged their cooperation. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has invited the Tribunal to open a field office there to facilitate efforts by the Prosecutor to track down suspects and accused.

171. The joint trial of Théoneste Bagosora, Gratien Kabiligi, Aloys Ntabakuze and Anatole Nsengiyumva, high-ranking officers charged with playing major roles in planning the Rwandan genocide, commenced on 2 April 2002. At present, 22 individuals are on trial before the Tribunal in eight trials.

172. The Tribunal has taken a number of institutional and legal measures to improve its efficiency, so that it can complete all trials at first instance by 2008. The judges have amended the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence to enable the Tribunal to transfer some cases to national courts for trial, and so allow it to concentrate on trying a limited number of important cases, involving the highest-ranking political, military and paramilitary leaders. In July 2001 and February 2002, the President of the Tribunal wrote to the Security Council, requesting the creation of a pool of ad litem judges in the Tribunal, broadly similar to that already in place at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia — a measure that would help the Tribunal to deal more expeditiously with both its current and its anticipated future caseload. The Security Council took action on that request in August 2002 (resolution 1431 (2002)).

Special Court for Sierra Leone

173. An important development in strengthening the rule of law was the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which began operations on 1 July 2002. The Special Court is a "mixed tribunal", established through an agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, and combining international and national mechanisms, staff, investigators, judges, prosecutors and laws. The Special Court will hold accountable those individuals with the greatest responsibility for serious violations of

international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone, and crimes under relevant national law. By the end of 2001, States had made sufficient resources available to fund its establishment and operation. A planning mission to Freetown in January 2002 discussed concrete measures for setting up the Special Court with the Government of Sierra Leone, and, on 16 January 2002, the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone signed the agreement on the establishment of the Special Court.

174. In May 2002, I appointed an Acting Registrar and a Prosecutor of the Special Court, and in July 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone and I appointed the judges who will serve in the Trial and Appeals Chambers. Also in May 2002, the Management Committee for the Special Court considered, and provisionally adopted, financial and staff regulations for the Court.

175. The Special Court will complement the role of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and, together, they will promote accountability, deterrence and national reconciliation. The Special Court will also help Sierra Leone to rebuild its national legal institutions and re-establish a firm foundation for the rule of law.

Enhancing the rule of law

176. The effort to enhance the rule of law in international affairs has continued to be a major concern of the United Nations. I have referred in my previous reports to the campaign by the United Nations to promote participation by States in international treaties. During the past year, two more successful treaty events were held, focusing on multilateral treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women and children and on treaties for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. A total of 135 treaty actions (involving 65 signatures and 70 ratifications and accessions) were taken by 61 States in respect of 23 treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women and children. With respect to the four conventions on preventing terrorism, even more States took a yet greater number of treaty actions, including those that resulted in the entering into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on 10 April 2002. Another treaty event was held during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to encourage participation in 25 conventions that reflect humanity's efforts to achieve economic advancement while ensuring that the environment will be preserved for future generations.

177. Despite this progress, strengthening the rule of law globally has been hampered by a shortage of technical expertise at the national level. Many countries are prevented from participating in the international treaty framework because they do not possess the relevant expertise to execute treaty actions, or to enact national laws to ensure compliance with treaty commitments.

178. The United Nations has taken a number of steps to address this problem. The Office of Legal Affairs has published and made available online a Treaty Handbook to provide Governments with practical guidance on the technical process of registering, participating in, and signing international treaties. Two training seminars for Permanent Missions have been held at Headquarters on this subject, in October 2001 and May 2002.

179. A number of the Organization's offices, departments, funds, programmes and agencies offer assistance to Governments in drafting laws necessary for the implementation of current or prospective treaty commitments and provide training for individuals whose work will involve the application of those laws. The International Trade Law Branch of the Office of Legal Affairs, for example, provides consultants, on request, to States that wish to implement particular uniform commercial laws or conventions, to help them review the draft legislation that their national authorities have prepared or to assist them in the actual preparation of their drafts. The United Nations Development Programme organizes technical assistance for States drafting national laws regulating judicial administration, legal procedures and access to justice. The Office of Legal Affairs and others throughout the system are using the United Nations web site to improve awareness of such programmes and enhance their accessibility. They are also developing a system to centrally coordinate these programmes, so as to eliminate gaps in coverage and avoid duplication.

Legal affairs

180. The past year, the first of its new quinquennium, was another productive one for the International Law Commission. The Commission included new topics in

its agenda, and advanced work on a number of existing topics, adopting further guidelines on treaty reservations, dealing with late reservations and with interpretative declarations. The Commission also considered outstanding legal and policy issues relating to unilateral acts of States, diplomatic protection and international liability for transboundary damage.

181. In June 2002, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted a Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation. The purpose of the Model Law is to foster economy and efficiency in international trade by encouraging the use of conciliation, and to provide greater predictability in the use of that method of resolving disputes. The Commission also continued its work on the subjects of insolvency, security interests, electronic contracting, transport law and privately financed infrastructure projects.

182. In November 2001, the Office of Legal Affairs organized a treaty event focusing on multilateral treaties for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. A total of 79 States completed approximately 180 treaty actions in respect of the various terrorism conventions of which I am the depositary. The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 continued work on the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

183. The Office of Legal Affairs continued to provide legal advice to UNMIK on the exercise of its legislative and executive authority under the constitutional framework, and assisted UNTAET in addressing a broad range of legal issues that arose in the course of East Timor's transition to independence. It provided advice and support to UNAMA regarding its relationship with the bodies established under the Bonn Agreement and helped the Mission in setting up the various commissions stipulated in the Agreement. The Office also provided legal advice and support to the Organization's other peacekeeping missions. It participated in the negotiation of several status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements, including the finalization of the agreement between the United Nations and East Timor concerning UNMISET. In addition, the Office assisted the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in developing strategies for the completion of their respective mandates by the end of the current decade.

184. The Office of Legal Affairs continued to defend the Organization in complex arbitration proceedings and in other disputes with third parties, while advising the Organization on a wide range of issues. The Office succeeded in ensuring the dismissal of the lawsuits that had been pending in the Malaysian civil courts against Dato' Param Cumaraswamy, in accordance with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 29 April 1999, confirming the immunity from legal process of a special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

Chapter V
Enhancing management

Administration and management

185. Reform efforts continue to transform the management culture of the Organization by streamlining work processes, strengthening management and improving staffing systems. Particular progress has been made in ensuring sound financial management, mainstreaming performance management, consolidating the reform of human resources management and building a common services platform. The "Electronic United Nations", an initiative to convert manual, paper-based processes to electronic formats, is being expanded and institutionalized and, through advances in information technology, practically all important information is digitally available to staff and Member States.

Human resources and performance management reform

186. Implementation of the "ten building block" strategy for human resources management continues, and has included the introduction of a new staff selection system, which increases the delegated authority to heads of department and office. Now, once central review bodies are satisfied that candidates have been properly evaluated and appropriate procedures have been followed, heads of department and office can select their own staff. The new system also integrates recruitment, placement, promotion and mobility through the use of an electronic tool, Galaxy, a global, web-based recruitment system which automates, streamlines and re-engineers the recruitment process. Work continues to expand career support, execute the managed reassignment programme for young Professionals and further refine both human resource planning and the human resource handbook. With regard to our internal system of staff justice, the office of the Ombudsman, established at the end of 2001, will strengthen the informal mediation process and replace the panel that considers discrimination and other grievances. Other performance management initiatives include developing a key item reporting system to bring online information to managers, and implementing the performance appraisal system throughout the Secretariat.

187. The next step in the managerial arena will be to implement a global management network for the Organization, based on a broad delegation of authority and supported by well functioning monitoring systems, management reviews and advisory mechanisms. More funds will be needed to consolidate the "Electronic United Nations", and to safeguard the information technology platform.

Capitalizing on technology

188. An information and communication strategy has been adopted that will improve access to information, field support, technical standards, capacity-building and e-administration. The Integrated Management Information System is now in place, serving as the central electronic platform for the Organization at all Headquarters locations, the regional commissions and five peacekeeping missions. In addition, the Official Document System is now operational as a universal tool for document retrieval.

Capital master plan

189. The capital master plan will refurbish the entire United Nations complex in New York in a comprehensive and cost-efficient manner. The General Assembly has requested that a preliminary comprehensive design plan and cost analysis be prepared, which will be reviewed at the fifty-seventh session. The design plan provides a set of recommendations covering core refurbishment; essential improvements; security enhancements; additional back-up plans for both building systems and equipment; and sustainable "green" renovation — all to equip the United Nations complex for the twenty-first century.

190. Given the magnitude of the financing involved, the General Assembly may wish to authorize the preparation of complete design and construction documentation. It will also be important to develop, in consultation with Member States, potential funding arrangements as rapidly as possible for submission to the General Assembly for approval, so that the required funding will be in place to begin the refurbishment in October 2004.

Financial management

191. Initiatives to ensure managerial accountability have included the introduction of results-based budgeting; streamlining rules governing programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; and presenting regular updates to Member States on the finances of the Organization. These initiatives have provided a means to improve the content and format of financial reporting and kept Member States fully aware of trends and the difficulties the Organization faces in financial matters, in particular its cash flow situation.

192. An encouraging development during the past year has been the improvement in the financial situation of the United Nations. All three components of the Organization's financial base — cash on hand, the level of paid assessments and debt to Member States, have been better than at any time over the last six years. Problems remain, however, concerning cyclical cash-flow variations, which result in periodic deficits in regular budget cash, especially towards the end of the year. Borrowing from peacekeeping missions is now permitted only from active missions; as the number of active missions is declining the availability of such resources will soon be depleted, effectively eliminating the financial safety net of the United Nations.

Accountability and oversight

193. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is working in partnership with managers at all levels to instil accountability and best management practices throughout the Organization.

Monitoring, evaluation and consulting

194. The Office has introduced new working methods while it continues to promote ethical awareness in the United Nations so as to combat fraud and the abuse of power. The merger of several oversight functions in the newly established Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division has energized cross-disciplinary teamwork in these areas. The newly established presence of the Office at Geneva will deliver more responsive and coordinated audits and investigation services, and will help programmes strengthen their capacity for self-evaluation, as required.

195. Three major inspections undertaken during the past year focused on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitoring systems. An inspection of the Department for Disarmament Affairs resulted in the overall positive assessment of its programme management and administration. An inspection of the programme management and administrative practices at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean found that, in general, the Commission is a well-run organization with a good institutional culture and staff morale, but that there was a need to improve human resources management and to review the responsibilities and accountability of managers. An inspection of the administrative and management practices at the United Nations Office at Nairobi concluded that, although its role and mandate had been clearly defined, there was a need to clarify its functional responsibilities and its reporting lines with UNEP, UN-Habitat and their governing bodies. The United Nations Office at Nairobi was also experiencing major difficulties in attracting highly qualified Professional staff and in filling vacancies in senior management positions.

196. An in-depth evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs concluded that it has generally discharged its functions effectively, but that a strong central capacity is needed to ensure uniform and consistent application of the law within the Organization. An evaluation of the Division of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services concluded that the Division has provided technical secretariat services efficiently and effectively. There was however a need to strengthen the provision of advice and support to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and to the bureaus of the main committees. The Office of Internal Oversight Services intends to provide increased support to Departments to strengthen their self-evaluation capacity, in a manner complementary to the implementation of the results-based budgeting.

Audit management

197. Internal audit activities continue to focus on high-risk areas such as peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, as well as the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Field missions pose a high risk to the Organization, owing to factors such as the large number of transactions made in cash, which increase the potential for the loss or theft of United Nations resources, and so require enhanced audit coverage. The Office of Internal

Oversight Services has therefore assigned resident auditors to the largest peacekeeping missions to provide close and continuous audit coverage. In cooperation with a major consulting firm, the Office is also undertaking an in-depth risk assessment of UNMIK, as part of an effort to improve risk-based planning systems for audit.

198. The high level of financial risk, the wide range of activities carried out and the unprecedented level of funds involved have also required the Internal Audit Division to expand audit coverage of the Office of the Iraq Programme, the United Nations Compensation Commission, and the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. Audits of the activities of the Office of the Iraq Programme and the United Nations Compensation Commission have resulted in operational improvements and significant cost savings. The Internal Audit Division is in the process of assigning resident audit staff to the Tribunals.

Investigations

199. The Investigations Division reports on violations of United Nations regulations, rules and pertinent administrative guidelines to bring about greater accountability on the part of staff members, and to protect the Organization's resources. During the past year, the Division received over 500 new cases and issued over 40 reports to programme managers. Several cases cleared staff members of wrong-doing when evidence gathered did not substantiate the allegation. The Division was also involved in a number of cases which required referral to national law enforcement authorities.

200. Other major investigations conducted have included an assessment mission to UNMIBH to determine whether the International Police Task Force was involved in the trafficking of women and young girls into the mission area for purposes of prostitution, and a follow-up investigation into possible fee-splitting arrangements between defence counsel and indigent detainees at the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. A third investigation focused on allegations of sexual exploitation of refugee girls and women by aid workers in UNHCR refugee camps in West Africa. The last investigation has to date not revealed a widespread pattern of such exploitation. The information gathered suggested that young female refugees resorted to prostitution or sexual relationships with aid workers as a result of extreme poverty.

Strengthening the Organization

201. Building on the work already done in my first term, earlier this year, at the start of my second mandate, I initiated another round of reforms. The Millennium Declaration adopted two years ago and the major world conferences since then have set the broad parameters for our activities. The focus of the reform is to ensure that the Organization's programme of work is aligned with the priorities and principles laid out in the Declaration. I also intend to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different units and offices in order to eliminate duplication, avoid fragmentation and improve the impact of our activities. I will also be proposing a simplification of rules of procedure and processes — to cut paperwork and time and increase efficiency and transparency.

202. My hope is that these reforms will help the Secretariat to focus its work, while also enabling us to better serve the General Assembly, the principal policy-making organ of the United Nations. Some of the proposals lie within the domain of Member States — streamlining and strengthening the work of the intergovernmental machinery is the most important example. Other reforms depend very much on our ability to reverse the under-investment in retraining our staff and in information technology. I am confident that the package of changes will result in a much strengthened Organization, as called for in the Millennium Declaration — one that continues to be credible and relevant to Member States, civil society and the peoples of the world.

Chapter VI
Partnerships

Communications

203. An effective communications strategy requires a dynamic network of partners and allies who understand what the Member States expect of the Organization. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested me to prepare a comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information to ascertain how the Department can better fulfil its responsibilities. Over the past several months, the Department has undertaken close self-examination, assisted by internationally recognized management consultants. The results of that exercise will be reflected in the report on reform I intend to submit to the General Assembly this autumn.

204. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 the Department projected the immediate response of the United Nations and Member States, and spurred a system-wide media campaign in support of counter-terrorism efforts. Among the initiatives taken was the creation of a new site on terrorism on the United Nations web site in all six official languages. When tours of United Nations Headquarters were suspended, the guides in the Department were able to join the American Red Cross in the relief effort as interpreters.

205. Early in October 2001, "town meetings" were convened in 10 United States cities with the help of the Better World Campaign to explore the challenges posed by the attacks and to express solidarity with the American people. The meetings were connected by a satellite link, allowing me to speak to, and respond to questions from, participants, while my senior colleagues and distinguished national representatives took part in the discussions on site at the various locations.

206. Media partnerships continue to be vital. The launch, early in 2002, of the United Nations News Service enabled the Organization to reach thousands of journalists in all regions of the world swiftly and directly. More than 4,000 subscribers worldwide have already signed on, including major news organizations and individual journalists, and receive the News Service via e-mail, and at no cost. This Service focuses in particular on the media in smaller developing countries, which may not have access to, or may not be able to afford, first-hand reporting from the Organization's headquarters and field offices.

207. In this spirit, the Department also provided logistical support to journalists from indigenous communities to let them attend the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2002. The Department continues to arrange briefing programmes to give senior journalists from around the world the opportunity to meet members of the United Nations community. A media encounter on Palestine was organized at Copenhagen in July 2002, which brought together eminent persons and journalists from the Middle East and elsewhere. United Nations Information Centres are in daily contact with journalists in their respective areas.

208. A measure of the widespread interest in the Organization is the fact that the United Nations web site is now accessed in 170 countries and territories, and the number of hits recorded annually crossed the 1 billion mark on 19 October 2001. At the same time, the web site's direct linkage of many parliamentary documents, in the six official languages, to the new Official Document System has dramatically expanded access to this important United Nations resource. In-house capability for live webcasting continues to develop; more than 60 hours of live webcast were provided for the International Conference on Financing for Development, and that coverage was accessed by more than 21,000 users. Sales of electronic databases, and of the web edition of *Development Business*, continue to generate revenues for the Organization from customers with the means to pay. The Organization's history, reflected in the *Yearbook of the United Nations* over 50 years, has been placed on CD-ROM.

209. Over the year, efforts have continued to ensure that the messages of the United Nations are articulated in as many languages as possible, and its reference resources similarly enriched. The United Nations web site can be accessed in the six official languages of the Organization. In addition to the broad range of outreach activities carried out by the United Nations Information Centres in local languages, the Centres maintain web sites in 29 languages. United Nations Radio broadcasts live programmes in six languages

every day; weekly programmes are produced in nine other languages. Guided tours at Headquarters are conducted in 20 languages. Innovative partnerships have been forged by the Department with external printing houses, making it possible to resume publication of the *UN Chronicle* in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish through co-publication arrangements, even as its newly instituted Feature Service allows publications the world over to reprint its articles in their respective languages.

210. A system-wide United Nations Communications Group has been constituted to ensure a strategic approach to common communications challenges facing the Organization. The Group meets weekly at Headquarters, in addition to an overview session each year, and replaces the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

211. The Department successfully collaborated with other offices and organizations during the observance of World AIDS Day. There was similar cooperation in formulating and implementing the communications campaigns relating to important global conferences, such as the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the special session of the General Assembly on children, the World Food Summit: five years later, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

212. The Department also undertook information campaigns relating to the independence of East Timor and the international community's role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. It assisted in establishing Radio Okapi, a radio station operated by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in cooperation with Fondation Hirondelle, a non-governmental organization based in Switzerland. The Cartographic Section of the Department provided valuable technical assistance to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, resulting in the successful delimitation of the international boundary between the two countries in April 2002.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

213. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Foundation are now in the fifth year of their successful partnership. Through this collaboration, $423 million has been programmed, as at 31 December 2001, for 222 projects worldwide in four programme areas, namely, children's health; population and women; environment; and peace, security and human rights. In addition, nearly $60 million has been generated, as at July 2002, by projects supported by the Fund and the Foundation.

214. In response to my call to action against HIV/AIDS, UNFIP, in collaboration with the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Global Business Council, organized a meeting between myself and senior representatives of 11 companies and foundations. This generated both significant interest in the issue and actual commitments, including from Daimler Chrysler to provide comprehensive care and payment for drug treatment for HIV/AIDS-infected workers in South Africa. Further, UNFIP is the "score keeper" of pledges and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. As at 1 June 2002, nearly 300 contributions have been received from the private sector, amounting to approximately $470,000.

215. Another innovative partnership facilitated by UNFIP is the Mother-to-Child-Transmission Plus initiative, led by the Rockefeller Foundation, which focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention linked to treatment, so as to increase the survival rate of infected mothers and their infants. UNICEF and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, among others, are implementing this $100 million programme. The Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University is leading the partnership coalition on technical and operational issues, and a coalition of eight foundations is providing sponsorship.

216. I am pleased to note that, as a result of General Assembly discussions on cooperation, a framework for working with corporate and foundation partners in the context of the millennium development goals can now be built. Most United Nations organizations, programmes and funds have now appointed private sector focal points to identify new partners and strengthen linkages with them.

217. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships also provides advice to the United Nations system on fund-raising and outreach, and on building partnerships to attain the millennium development goals. The Fund has established ties with foundations

and advised organizations raising funds for United Nations causes.

Project services

218. In 2001, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) acquired new project business valued at $603 million and delivered more than $504.7 million in services for approximately 2,400 projects worldwide. UNDP continued to be the largest single United Nations client in the project portfolio: projects funded by or through UNDP accounted for $361 million of the 2001 total. In addition, UNOPS supervises a loan portfolio on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, grew in 2001 by $328 million in new projects.

219. The value of project portfolios acquired in 2001 from United Nations organizations that are not traditional users of UNOPS services grew from $155 million in 2000 to $242 million in 2001. The latter figure includes $179 in new project business from the United Nations Secretariat and $24 million from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

220. The United Nations Office for Project Services is implementing its first major project funded by the African Development Bank through a management services agreement with UNDP: a $9.8 million loan to the Government of Sierra Leone to assist with the rehabilitation and modernization of hospitals and health clinics. In order to minimize internal disruptions to its regular operations during an 18-month reorganization process, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) requested UNOPS in 2001 to provide operational and administrative support for recruiting consultants and organizing workshops in the context of its transition project.

221. An illustration of its diversifying project portfolio is the assistance UNOPS is providing to the Legal Counsel in the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In partnership with ILO and other organizations of the United Nations system, UNOPS will be implementing an integrated development programme in the Evenkya Autonomous Region of Siberia with local authorities and one of the largest oil companies in the Russian Federation. The programme focuses on education, health, housing and infrastructure.

222. Further evolution of services is exemplified by a major urban water and sanitation project in northern Iraq. The Office of the Iraq Programme requested UNOPS to execute the project, valued at $194.6 million, in close collaboration with UNICEF. UNOPS is also becoming an implementation partner, with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, for projects in Colombia, the Czech Republic, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland and South Africa. Also in 2001, in Kosovo, a United Nations Mine Action Service programme executed with UNOPS cleared all areas known to be affected by landmines or unexploded ordnance to an acceptable residual level.

223. Following a review conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to determine how best UNOPS services could be used more broadly, I reiterated my support for the continuing work of UNOPS as a self-financing entity, encouraging all United Nations entities to avail themselves of the services of UNOPS as long as it is a cost-effective option. To strengthen the functioning of UNOPS as a self-financing entity, I recommended a number of areas for improvement, both in oversight of UNOPS and in operations, including the expansion of the membership of the Management Coordination Committee and the establishment of a working group to facilitate and support the work of that Committee. Those recommendations, endorsed by the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, have been implemented and are assisting UNOPS in addressing its financial difficulties.

Civil society partnerships

224. Cooperation between the United Nations system and civil society has continued to evolve over the year, not least in response to the complex social, economic, security and environmental challenges that exist today. The United Nations has been engaged in seeking common ground for constructive dialogue among representatives of Governments and civil society, as well as new frameworks for cooperation. The primacy of government commitment and action to realize the goals of the United Nations remains fundamental. Partnerships across the civil society-governmental spectrum are essential, however, in the efforts to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, guarantee human rights and enhance global security.

225. The establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002 marked a milestone for the international community, and is a measure of the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, which contributed to every phase of the process. In the preparations for the Monterrey Conference, and at the quadripartite round-table dialogues on global macroeconomic issues at the Conference itself, the insights and experiences of civil society were brought to bear on fundamental issues of poverty, investment and economic growth. Similarly, the engagement of civil society has been essential to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The development of new forms of partnership involving Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector is an important feature of the Summit, and will have a considerable effect in the outcome and implementation of the Summit agenda.

226. The United Nations has constantly adapted to the evolution of civil society and its increasing role in the international community. The diverse interests, expertise and nature of civil society organizations require a sophisticated and flexible approach to United Nations relationships with civil society. On a practical level, the establishment of focal points for non-governmental organizations within the Secretariat has facilitated interactions with and among those organizations. Strengthened Secretariat support to intergovernmental bodies, which deal directly with non-governmental organizations, have enhanced interaction between the latter and Member States. At the same time the Secretariat has sought to facilitate communication among non-governmental organizations themselves by fostering the development of regional networks of such organizations, particularly in developing countries.

227. A substantial body of practice has been developed regarding the role and extent of participation of non-governmental organizations in special United Nations conferences. Decisions governing these arrangements continue to be largely ad hoc, notwithstanding the general principles set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, part VII. It is, of course, the prerogative of the Member States to define the terms and conditions governing accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations in United Nations conferences and other deliberations. Greater coherence, consistency and predictability in this regard would further enhance relations between the United Nations and civil society as a whole.

228. Partnerships with the private sector are also critical. The Global Compact has worked with businesses across the world to encourage corporate responsibility in the spheres of human rights, labour standards and the environment. With partners at the national level, and with the support of United Nations organizations, programmes and funds, the Global Compact has now been launched in every region of the world. In Asia, for example, the International Organization of Employers worked with the International Labour Organization to undertake a regional survey of the implementation of the Compact, to establish management and advocacy groups at the national level, and to find the most effective approaches for engaging companies in Asia in the work of the Compact.

229. The Global Compact's first progress report was released in July 2002, and records the achievements of the Compact so far. Specifically, in 2001-2002, the Compact formed a Global Compact Advisory Council and set up working groups on a variety of issues, including sustainable investment in the least developed countries; continued a policy dialogue on the role of business in zones of conflict, and initiated a second on business and sustainable development; established the learning forum as a database of case studies by companies that are translating the Compact's principles into practice; facilitated Partnership Projects between companies and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, and consolidated outreach at the national level through high-level advocacy and official country launches.

Conclusion

230. This annual report provides an overview of what the United Nations is doing to help solve pressing global problems, and to strengthen international cooperation. More detailed assessments of specific issues reviewed in this report are contained in my other reports to the legislative organs. Developments during the past year have affirmed the Organization's increasing relevance in world affairs; but a review of the work of the Organization is also a reminder that much still needs to be done to achieve the aims and goals of the Charter and the Millennium Declaration. In the coming year, let us take every opportunity to use the Organization in our common endeavour to achieve lasting peace and justice.

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